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FBIS-LAT-89-187 *28 September 1989*

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Cuba

Foreign Minister Denounces U.S. Foreign Policy

FL2809011089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Today Cuba denounced the United States for continuing its policy of aggression and threat against revolutionary and independent countries of the Third World. Speaking at the United Nations, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said that Cuba and the nonaligned believe that a universal, honorable, and just peace requires not just the peace of the superpowers, but it also requires that underdeveloped countries benefit from the climate of detente.

Malmierca warned that the Cuban Government will not silently tolerate the television broadcasts against Cuba, which have destabilizing purposes, and that Cuba will respond to that new aggression.

The Cuban foreign minister called for solidarity with Panama and for the support of the Central American peace agreements. He also urged the organization to watch over the fulfillment of the Tripartite Agreements for southern Africa.

Foreign Trade Minister Arrives in Pyongyang

FL2709203389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1945 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] A Cuban governmental delegation has arrived in Pyongyang, DPRK, and it is headed by Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas. The Cuban group will participate in the 13th session of the commission for economic and scientific-technical consultation which will be carried out between the two governments.

Dissent in Hungarian Party Presidium Noted

FL2709174289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Miklos Nemeth, member of the Presidium of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, admitted that complete agreement does not exist among the four members of that body. Even though it was originally established that decisions at that level would only be valid if a complete consensus was reached, that agreement has not existed, Nemeth said to the MAGYAR TAVIRATI IRODA press agency.

During the past few months, discrepancies have become more evident in the heart of the Presidium, created precisely to contain what was considered at that time to be an imminent division of the party.

It was also reported that the Central Committee is finalizing details of the 1989 Hungarian Socialist Workers Party congress. It was announced that this political organ will discuss a report on the progress of the preparations for the highest party meeting which will be held from 6 to 9 October.

Fishing Agreement for 1990 Signed With Mexico

FL2809020689 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Mexican Secretary of Fisheries Maria de los Angeles Moreno left Cuba today.

[Begin recording] [Moreno, identified by caption] I am very delighted. I have confirmed the impression I have always had about the Cubans—that they are wonderful and very hard working people. They have found their own way for doing things. They are enthusiastically working to advance in anything that is productive, especially in the social arena. [end recording]

After 2 days of talks, Cuba and Mexico signed the fishing agreement for 1990. The agreement contains the fishing interests of Cuba for the 1990 season. The yearly fishing quota for species such as shark, sawfish, and (?swordfish) will be maintained. [passage indistinct] The document clearly expresses the agreement of the Mexican party with the proposals made by the Cuban ministry.

[Begin recording] [Moreno] We are convinced that by the end of the year we will have fulfilled the goals we had set. Therefore, we have set more ambitious goals for next year. [end recording]

Later on, Moreno told me about her conversation with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

[Begin recording] [Moreno] Well, the talk was also about what is going on in Mexico. The commander, as always, expressed interest, and was very nice and affectionate toward my country, for which I am very grateful. We even talked about how to cook fish. He is a well-versed man. He converses easily, and has a great ability for retention and great interest in various subjects ranging from the humanities to technology. He is very impressive. [end recording]

While the agreements were being signed, I wondered how this would benefit the Cuban economy.

[Begin recording] [Jorge Fernandez Cuervo-Vincent, minister of fishing industry, identified by caption] Our fish products, derived from the fish caught in Mexico, will not go on the international market. They are for national consumption, and destined to social projects. [end recording]

The basic point of the agreement that was just signed between Cuba and Mexico is to improve relations in this arena as well as to increase fishing activities.

Zoological Cooperation With Tanzania

FL2809024589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Mrs Amina Salum Ali, minister of state for international cooperation of the Tanzanian Foreign Ministry, has visited the National Zoological Park in Havana City in order to discuss matters related to the exchange between the Cuban zoo and the Tanzanian national parks.

After receiving a detailed explanation of the characteristics of national zoological park, Mrs Amina Salum, who heads the delegation from her country to the ninth session of the Joint Cuba-Tanzania Commission, toured the facilities. Specialists of the center expressed to the visitor the need for increasing samples of the African fauna in light of the future expansion of the sector dedicated to that continent.

Meanwhile, through the cooperation that exists between the two countries in this field, Cuba will request from Tanzania, birds, panthers, leopards, and a male elephant, since all the pachyderms our park has are female. In exchange, the Cuban zoo will send to Tanzania samples of the tropical fauna and will provide consultations for the management of animals under captivity.

Internationalists Who Served in Algeria Summoned

FL2709143289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1314 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Those combatants who formed part of the special military training group who fulfilled their internationalist mission in the brother Republic of Algeria between the years of 1963 and 1964 are requested to provide information on their tour of duty. On Friday at 1900, those who are residing in the capital and in Havana Province should present themselves at the Camilo Cienfuegos sports circle on 1st Street between 8th and 10th Avenues, Vedado.

Caribbean Affairs

Canada Provides 1 Million EC Dollars in Aid

FL2709114589 Bridgetown CANA in English 0313 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Sept 27, CANA—The Canadian Development Assistance Programme, (CDAP), has made available one million East Caribbean dollars [1 EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents] for rehabilitation projects in the islands affected by Hurricane Hugo.

A release from the Canadian High Commission here said the money, made available through the Canada Fund Programme, can be quickly taken up by organisations, service clubs, churches, community groups, and other agencies which are working to bring relief to the stricken islands.

"The Canadian contribution to each project will depend on the need and on the local initiative shown by the recipient," the release said.

It is expected that about 50 projects will benefit from this special fund.

Meantime, the Emergency Relief Coordinating Group, has reported successful and continuous transfer of relief supplies to Montserrat and St Kitts and Nevis from the staging area at Antigua's international airport. The Barbados-based group comprises representatives of the Caribbean Community (Caricom), the British and Canadian High Commissions, the European Economic Community, the United States Agency for International Development, and the United Nations Development Programme, which chairs meetings. The group was convened in response to the crisis brought on by Hurricane Hugo.

Caricom

Concern Over Dominican Plans To Join Lome

FL2709121689 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] The Caricom [Caribbean Community] Secretariat says it's concerned over plans by the Dominican Republic to join the Lome Convention. A 2-member team from the Dominican Republic visited the Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana last week. They discussed ways of improving communications with Caricom. The Dominicans also inquired about areas of cooperation with respect to relations between Caribbean countries and the European Community.

The Dominican Republic has already applied for membership in Caricom.

Grenada

UK's Thatcher Concerned Over Political Crisis

FL2709142189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1323 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Sept 27, CANA—British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has voiced some concern about the political crisis in Grenada, according to leader of the opposition New National Party, Dr. Keith Mitchell. He said that during talks he recently had with Mrs.Thatcher, it was evident she had a "thorough understanding" of the situation in Grenada which was once a colony of Britain. He said that the British leader asked some "very pointed questions" and was very concerned about the situation in the country.

Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize is holding on to power with a parliamentary minority. Plans for a no-confidence motion that would have toppled his government had to be put on hold when he prorogued parliament.

Mitchell also indicated that Thatcher expressed the hope that Grenadians can deal with the situation in a democratic way and that whatever happens, the country would be the one to benefit from "the resultant evolution of the democratic process". He said there was a feeling that "we should deal with the Grenada situation in an atmosphere that would certainly ensure that the future result would be to the best benefit of Grenada, Carriacou, and Petit Martinique".

Mitchell has just returned home from a trip to Japan where he attended a meeting of the International Democratic Union (IDU). He said that apart from Thatcher, he met U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle and the new Japanese prime minister.

Haiti

Political Parties Voice Concerns Over Elections

FL2709141589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] With the official (?publication) of the electoral calendar, several political leaders have already set forth their position on this.

Hubert de Ronceray, leader of the Mobilization for National Development, MDN, considers the calendar unacceptable. Thus, the MDN totally rejects this calendar.

[Begin recording] [De Ronceray] [Passage omitted] We realize that the calendar has characteristics that go totally against the grain of what we had asked for. [passage omitted] We see that this calendar is the very opposite of what we had asked for. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Is this also the position of the Movement for the Organization of the Country and the National Agricultural and Industrial Party, to which the MDN is allied?

[De Ronceray] No, this is the position of the MDN, which stems logically from the position of the coalition. However, this is not yet the official position of the coalition. [end recording]

Mr Dejean Belizaire, leader of the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November [MNP-28], says the military government has kept its word. He also says the publication of the electoral calendar is an important step in the process of transition to democracy. He says the electoral calendar is the result of a consensus discerned in a survey made by the [Permanent] Electoral Council [CEP].

[Begin Belizaire recording] [Passage omitted] Of course, we can understand that the electoral calendar is not exactly what we wanted. However, we do feel that it does, after all, reflect a consensus. [passage omitted] In other words, it does not reflect 100 percent the position of MNP-28, just as it cannot reflect 100 percent the position of any other organization because it is a consensus. We do have a few small reservations. For example, we see that the agenda does not say when the electoral decree will be issued.

The second reservation we have is that we see the elections are indeed divided into stages, just as we had suggested and requested. However, we see that the stages are subdivided. This subdividing of the stages might, if certain precautions are not taken, cause a few small problems in actual practice. For example, it is not advisable for them to make public the results of the first group of Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections elections as soon as they are held.

The same goes for the legislative elections. The results of the elections for the first five geographical departments cannot be proclaimed after these elections have been held. They must not make the results of these elections public until all the legislative elections have been held. That's how we see it. [end recording]

Francois Latortue, leader of the Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti/Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti, wonders if the electoral calendar that has been made public is a definitive or a provisional calendar because at the top of the document, it says draft calendar.

[Begin Latortue recording] Well, first of all, what we noticed is that the text says: draft electoral calendar. I don't know what they mean by the word draft. Is it a provisional text, as indicated by the word draft; or is it a definitive text? In which case, the word draft is inappropriate. This is the first point that troubles us.

The second point is that general elections are usually held in such cases. [passage omitted] Now, I see that they are planning to hold partial elections, without giving any explanation for the departure from the norm in Haiti.

These are the two things we are wondering about.

As for the rest, we can understand that the CEP needs time. [passage omitted] I really don't see how they could start holding elections before 6 months. [end recording]

We tried to meet with the CEP about this matter. We talked to the president of the CEP by phone. He told us that the CEP is going to reflect a bit and will issue a memorandum later, setting forth clearly its position.

League Criticizes President, Foreign Funding

FL2709153289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The League of Former Haitian Political Prisoners [LAPPH] held a discussion Saturday afternoon [23 September] at the Faculty of Sciences of the National University of Haiti on the crisis within the popular organizations. One of our reporters attended.

[Unidentified reporter] On Saturday, 23 September, at a discussion on the crisis, (Alix Fils-Aime) said that the reason the popular organizations in Haiti are falling apart is that there are currently in these organizations transversing forces, economic power, repression, and the lack of the addition of open organizations. [passage omitted] (Fils-Aime) said that these organizations poison is the money that foreign organizations are giving them to finance them, because these organizations know full well that the minute there is money involved, a falling-out is inevitable. (Fils-Aime) added that the differing levels of preparation by the different members of these organizations, (?as well as) differences between the organizations' leaders and grassroots, are also the reasons these organizations fall apart.

Claude (Rouzier), a founder and the vice president of the LAPPH, said the LAPPH is currently in the midst of a big crisis and that LAPPH President Robert Duval is at the root of this crisis. When and how did this begin? Let's listen to (Rouzier).

[Begin (Rouzier) recording] Two days before the seminar [not further identified] was to be held, Robert Duval declared during an executive committee meeting that the seminar could not be held. We asked him why not? He said he didn't think it could be held because there was an assembly of delegates that had to be held and that this assembly had to be held before the seminar. [passage omitted]

There were five members of the executive committee present. Everyone except Robert Duval was in favor of holding the seminar. He applied pressure when he saw he was in the minority. He said that he couldn't guarantee the holding of the seminar, and that there were members in that thing [nan bagay sa] who would come and take violent action against the participants.

He claimed that at the very moment we were discussing this inside, there were persons with sticks (?and pointed iron objects) outside ready to attack and had almost gone into action. [passage omitted]

It would have been an inconvenience to contact all those people to cancel the seminar.

The delegates came in to attend the seminar anyway. I went very early in the morning on the day they came into town to receive them. Robert Duval appeared. He wanted to take their names. I don't know why he wanted their names. (?He) asked them to give him their names. They said they wouldn't give him any names at that time. At that point he said that since they wouldn't give him their names, he would not give them the money to return home.

My reaction was to tell them: OK, gentlemen, let's leave. So, we left. I don't know what went through his mind but he then decided to provide the funds.

I must tell you that he is the treasurer and everything else in the LAPPH. [end recording]

Claude (Rouzier) asks all popular organizations in Haiti to take a stand on this matter, because when your companion's beard catches on fire, you had better begin soaking your own in water.

Finally, (Rouzier) announced that the LAPPH is going to hold a general assembly very soon. At this general assembly, they are going meet to find a solution to this problem.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Britain Providing Grant To Build Coast Guard Base

FL2709125489 Bridgetown CANA in English 1243 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Sept 27, CANA—Britain has made a grant of over 5 million East Caribbean dollars (one EC dollar—37 U.S. cents) to St. Vincent and the Grenadines to build a coast guard base at Calligua Bay. The project forms part of a regional scheme which will provide new or much improved coast guard shore facilities on St. Kitts, Dominica, Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Grenada. The facilities will comprise a jetty for safe mooring and servicing of coast guard vessels, a workshop for maintenance and repairs, and accommodations for duty men and for administration and support services.

"The provision of these facilities will improve considerably the effectiveness of coast guard operations," a statement from the British High Commission here said.

Costa Rica

Arias Pleased With Baker, Shevardnadze Agreement

PA2809004189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2212 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] San Jose, 27 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias today reacted with "joy," and hopes that agreements concerning peace efforts in Central America signed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on 25 September will be kept.

Baker and Shevardnadze, who are responsible for the diplomacy of the two superpowers, urged, on 24 September from Wyoming (U.S.A.), for all countries to discontinue all types of assistance to irregular or rebel forces in Central America.

Arias told ACAN-EFE that in addition to his satisfaction "for this gesture of goodwill," he must also express his concern "because this is not the first time that similar calls have been made but have not been complied with."

Arias added: "We see that today no one doubts the moral and material support that Cuba gives to the Salvadoran rebel forces. It is very sad to see the incongruence between what is said on one hand and what is done on the other."

According to international political observers, the text of the declaration signed in Wyoming by the two diplomats suggests that Moscow disapproves of the arms shipments that Cuba sends to the Salvadoran leftists movements and to other countries in the region.

Arias, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for his peace efforts in Central America, will speak at the UN General Assembly in New York on 3 October. His speech will cover the most urgent topics concerning Costa Rica and the rest of the area.

El Salvador

Merino Speaks on Recent FMLN Actions, Talks

PA2809001189 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Interview with acting President Francisco Merino Lopez by Milton Grimaldi on 27 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Merino] We believe it is a good idea to begin working on a procedure where there may be at least some agreements. Through its commission, the government is aiming to discuss and agree to an end to hostilities, involving not only military actions, but also the terrorist actions that are carried out in the city by groups acting as FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] fronts. The FMLN has the opportunity of being able to show its sincere desire to participate in the dialogue meetings. In addition, the government has the constitutional mandate, and it should be kept clearly in mind that all violent terrorist acts will be followed up by a defensive action by the government and its Armed Forces. The FMLN must understand that their actions only serve to generate violence, violence that makes no sense in view of the fact that the road to peace is open and is being offered with sincerity and good will.

[Grimaldi] Does this set back the talks that are to be held in San Jose?

[Merino] Not at all. The commission has been working continuously with the support of the advisory commission. The outline is very clear, and we have a rapid means of communication with President Cristiani in case of need.

[Grimaldi] Will these FMLN actions alter in any way the government proposals that you are working on in preparation for the dialogue meeting?

[Merino] Not at all. Our position is firm and clear. The FMLN's actions yesterday do not surprise us. They are intended to act as a demonstration of their military might. What is clear is that they, or some of them, are taking tactical advantage of this dialogue. The so-called unilateral truce they had announced has only enabled their groups to move around and resupply, allowing them to cause all the damage you all know about. However, this is a silly attitude, which we have seen on previous occasions and are familiar with. This cyclical behavior goes back full circle to what they did in the past, which was thought to have long been overcome.

Labor Leaders Announce New Organization

PA2709171889 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 25 Sep 89 p 4

[Text] On 23 September, five people's organizations formed the Colonel Benjamin Mejilla People's Democratic Coordinating Board (CDP) named in honor of the murdered colonel.

The creation of the coordinating board was announced during a news conference hosted by representatives of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS), the Salvadoran Federation of University Students (FEUS), the National Peasant Association (ANC), and the National Union of Disaster Victims of El Salvador (UNADES).

Hector Bernabe Recinos, former FENASTRAS leader, said that the objective of the new organization is to defend the people's movement and strengthen the struggle of the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers], which represents the unity of the workers, and the work of the Permanent Committee for the National Debate in its struggle for peace in the country.

The Col Benjamin Mejilla CDP was named after a high-ranking officer who participated in a failed coup d'etat in 1972 and was murdered in 1981.

Recinos recalled that many opposition leaders, including leaders of the FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front], representatives of human rights organizations, and many others have been murdered in this decade and justice has not prevailed.

Also present at the news conference were high-ranking labor leaders such as Febe Elizabeth Velasquez of the UNTS Executive Committee.

Venceremos Reports New Offensive Operations

PA2809000689

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 27 September broadcasts 45 minutes of reports on 26 September activities during the new offensive called "Stop the Aggression, Everybody for the Achievement of Democracy and Peace," which covered 10 departments. In recapping the overall results of the numerous operations, the station reports that 11 Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] comrades were killed in combat. The station begins by reporting on operations conducted by the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front in the San Miguel, La Union, and Morazan Departments. "The San Francisco Gotera area was the chief objective of these operations, although other actions were reported in nearby areas. In addition, enemy positions were attacked in Cachautique Mountain."

The operation in San Francisco Gotera, that started at 0145 and lasted until 0630, began with an attack on all Military Detachment No. 4 positions stationed there. The center of the attacks was the detachment's central garrison, and the new garrison located east of the city. An "enemy section located in Picacho Mountain, was disloged," causing an unspecified number of casualties. The rebels state that they seized 81-mm and 60-mm mortar shells in a raid on a military warehouse. Enemy positions stationed in northern San Francisco Gotera were disloged in heavy fighting, and "three M-16 rifles were seized, two soldiers were captured, and more military materiel was captured." In all, "we confirm inflicting 60 casualties, including an artillery chief and a special commands chief." As for the materiel seized, the report indicates that the rebels captured "1 90-mm cannon and 4 projectiles, 1 60-mm mortar, 11 grenades, 3 M-16 rifles, 2 PRC-77 radios, 21 grenades for an M-79 grenade launcher, 4 shells for 81-mm mortars, 12 knapsacks, and several thousand kilos of material yet to be added up."

The fighting at Osicala, Delicias de Conception, Yoloaiquin, Lolopiquillo, Chilanga, and at the military landing strip began at 0200 and ended at 1400. Two sergeants were among the casualties in these operations. On Garrobo Mountain, in Delicias de Concepcion, the Army sustained six casualties and one corporal was taken prisoner. Also, two M-16 rifles were seized. Moreover, enemy positions were disloged from Lotipiquillo's ANTEL [National Administration for Telecommunications] offices and the municipal building. The Army sustained 4 casualties. The station adds that while the above was taking place, the town of Cacaopera was taken over. "The Arce Battalion sustained two casualties in the city of Perquin."

Further reports from the eastern front indicate that at 0500, the Military Detachment No 3's Fonseca Battalion was attacked in La Paz, San Sebastian Canton, Santa Rosa de Lima, in La Union Department. In the ensuing 2-hour clash, the FMLN station reports that the rebels "inflicted 12 casualties." One of the injured is Captain Martinez Campos. Also, 4 Military Detachment No. 3 soldiers were captured, and "7 rifles, 2 LAW [Light Antitank Weapon] grenade launchers, 1 PRC-77 communications radio, 12 knapsacks, 1 pair of binoculars, 2 M-60 grenades, a large quantity of M-16 ammunition, and 14 M-79 grenades were seized."

The Sesori National Guard was attacked at 1245, and the city was taken over partially. In this attack, "we inflicted 11 casualties and destroyed military equipment." The fighting was still raging at 0930. " Moreover, heavy figthing took place in the center of Chinameca between FMLN rebels and National Guards units."

Information from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front reveals that FMLN rebels sabotaged the Aponte Bridge, located between Tecoluca and Zacatecoluca. The clash with DMIFA [Armed Forces Engineers Military Detachment] soldiers lasted until 1000; DMIFA sustained nine casualties.

Chalatenango Department's Central Front attacked Military Detachment No. 1. "It is worth noting this operation was conducted by evading the enemy's line of defense," the station reports. Information from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front reveals that at 0200 enemy positions were attacked with artillery fire in Concepcion Quezaltepeque. A rally was held in Llano Grande, in that same region. Another report notes the attack on the El Poy border post at 0300. "The enemy did not respond the fire," the report added.

Also at 0200, Military Detachment No 5 troops were attacked in Las Guaras, San Martin, Suchitoto Department. In this operation, the FMLN states that it inflicted 20 casualties and captured one M-16 rifle, one M-79 grenade launcher, one LAW M-79 grenade launcher, and one PRC-77 radio. At 0630, reinforcement troops were ambushed in El Morro, where the Army sustained 5 casualties. FMLN guerrillas besieged the town of San Pedro for 2 hours. At 0410, 4th Infantry Brigade soldiers were attacked on the northern trunk highway.

Reports from Feliciano Ama Western Front indicate that at 0200, FMLN guerrillas launched an attack on 2d Infantry Brigade troops that lasted until 0630. "A total of 18 casualties is reported." In another operation in the area between Tucumai and Chamotes Cantons, 15 more casualties were inflicted.

Wrapping up the information on the FMLN offensive, the station notes that as result of this operation, FMLN

guerrillas inflicted a total of "228 casualties" on the Army, "including 3 officers."

Guatemala

Cerezo Mentions 'Serious Threats Against Peace'

PA2709215989 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Report on President Vinicio Cerezo's 24 September speech at the UN General Assembly—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] On 24 September, the people seemed to worry more about the nation's problems dealing with inflation, the mounting crime rate, and even bad weather rather than President Cerezo's participation at the United Nations. The Guatemalan president said that, in spite of the positive trends throughout the world, there is a serious threat against peace as well as the stability of our institutions and our societies.

[Cerezo] "I am referring to narcotics trafficking and terrorism, and to the wicked combination of these two in our hemisphere. In addition to having a firm political determination, it is necessary to agree on joint actions in areas of security in order to struggle against and end these destructive means. It is also important to make rapid progress in the development and codification of adequate legal instruments. In Guatemala, we are deeply impressed with the attack Colombia has waged, and have voiced our solidarity with the Colombian people and Government. We admire President Barco's determination, and are aware that many of the problems which have caused a crisis in his country are present throughout many of our countries."

When referring to the debt issue, Cerezo agreed with his counterparts from Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela who had spoken prior to him. Cerezo said that the United Nations has an adequate framework for resuming a broad North-South dialogue on international economic cooperation. The president charged that there is protectionism, discriminatory practices, monetary instabilities, and high rates of interest that—when combined—seriously affect the developing countries. According to Cerezo's speech before the UN General Assembly, it is necessary that the spirit of cooperation which has arisen in the international political field also cover the economic and social fields.

[Cerezo] "The debt and the service of the debt, as well as the reduction of financial resources destined for development, are problems that continue to affect us. We understand the problems that are also affecting the developed countries. However, their protectionist measures, the general proliferation of some discriminatory practices against the commercial principles and customs that had been promoted before, the trade restrictions applied to the developing countries' exports, the financial and monetary instability, and the high interest rates—just to mention a few problems—seriously hinder our tasks."

When referring to the Central American problems, the Guatemalan president voiced his hopes for political stability as well as a firm and lasting peace, goals that will depend—in part—on the international community supporting compliance with the Esquipulas agreements.

[Cerezo] "We hope that the UN Security Council will authorize, in due time, sending an observation team, in addition to the other requirements of the secretary general, to support the demobilization of rebel forces. These actions, which mark a new stage in the development of the regional peace process, will contribute in consolidating the positive results of our efforts."

President Cerezo's speech also referred to Belize in the sense that Guatemala has the best intentions of finding a peaceful, just, overall, and honorable solution for all parties. He also pointed out the need for a realistic, flexible, and positive attitude concerning Panama. President Cerezo reiterated an urgent call for the reestablishment of democratic institutionality. He also stressed that, bearing in mind Latin American spirits and hopes, an attitude of collective responsibility be adopted, accepting the initiatives for a peaceful solution to the Panamanians' aspirations.

Following his speech at the UN General Assembly, President Cerezo then held bilateral meetings with other presidents. In these meetings, Cerezo insisted on the need for Latin American countries to adopt a common strategy for confronting problems such as drug trafficking by countering both drug production and consumption. In his talks with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, they discussed the Panamanian problem. After the two presidents exchanged gifts, someone recalled that during his first term as president, Carlos Andres Perez had given a ship to the president of Bolivia, a country without an outlet to the sea. Cerezo also met with U.S. President George Bush, their second meeting this year. They discussed the points of view held by Guatemala and Washington concerning the Central American peace process.

Archbishop on Students Departure, Denies Threats

PA2709224689 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 1230 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Guatemalan Archbishop Msgr Prospero Penados Del Barrio regrets that members of the AEU [University Students Association] and the GAM [Mutual Support Group] have voluntarily left Guatemala for exile. Msgr Penados says that this means they are not safe and fear for their lives in Guatemala. This is pretty bad, he added, because it means there is still no security for people in our country.

Regarding the telephone calls he has been receiving, Msgr Penados said he does not consider them threats. On the contrary, he commented, in many instances these calls are mere insults and warnings. For instance, he added, sometimes he is told to mind his own business, but he is accustomed to being told that, so he does not pay much attention to such calls. Msgr Penados stressed that the calls are not death threats.

URNG Gongratulates ORPA on Anniversary

PA2409135189 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 19 Sep 89 p 67

[Communique issued by the General Command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) on 18 September]

[Text] On the 10th Anniversary of the Emergence of the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), Vanguard Detachment of the Guatemalan Revolution:

It was 10 years ago that Commander Gaspar Ilom and the ORPA commanders publicly announced the existence of a political-military organization that, overcoming most difficult tests, repression, persecution, annonymity, adversity, financial limitations, and the loss of several of its leaders, in reality, had begun its activities 8 years before.

In making the announcement with modesty and without ostentation, risking their lives and future, which they placed at the service of the Guatemalan Revolution through the most dangerous and arduous revolutionary path, armed guerrillas struggle, the ORPA leaders objectively defined that fraternal revolutionary organization without pretensions, are, in reality, a fundamental part of the Guatemalan people's vanguard.

Today we solemnly and joyfully commemorate the 10th anniversary of continuous struggle that includes victorious clashes and hardship.

That is only part of ORPA's history, that which is publicly known. Therefore, our homage to our brothers today must also be understood as a tribute to the glory and sacrifice of the martyrs and heroes, that, with incomparable tenacity, firm conviction, and patience, forged and developed ORPA, one of the powerful detachments that make up the URNG.

The achievements through which ORPA's leaders, commanders, cadres, militants, members, and fighters have contributed and still contribute to the Guatemalan people's revolutionary and unitary struggle, have an unquestioned significance and value. We can affirm with total responsibility and historical objectivity that without those contributions given at all levels in which the revolutionary, popular, and democratic process is being conducted and in the various forms of combat, the URNG's existence and the level of development that our people's struggle has acquired inside and outside the country would have been impossible.

All militants of fraternal organizations are propud to have the ORPA brothers on our side, in the heat of combat, in compliance with political, diplomatic, and popular tasks; in our daily activities, inseparably united by the aspirations and victorious achievements of our Fatherland, our firm political and ideological convictions, and our steadfast determination to struggle tirelessly until we achieve victory for our cause.

In commemorating another anniversary of ORPA's existence, on behalf of our respective groups, we would like to send to its members—wherever they may be and whatever trench they may have to defend—our hearty message, revolutionary greetings, and sincere recognition for the years of heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to the revolution and cause of the Guatemalan people.

Eternal glory to those who have fallen in this noble and just struggle. Their example will live always in the thoughts and action of revolutionaries. Our fervent desire for new and greater victories and special honorable greetings to Commander Gaspar Ilom, ORPA's creator and founder and undoubtedly one of the leaders of the Guatemalan people's united vanguard.

URNG General Command
18 September 1989
ople in Guatemala City

PA2709225089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1909 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—It was reported in this capital today that heavily armed men kidnapped three Europeans in Tecun Uman last night.

Those who were kidnapped are Jose Maria Martinez, 55, from Spain; Roberto Lizardi, 52, from France; and Luis Rossi, 35, from Italy.

The report on the kidnappings was made by Edgar and Lesbia Leal, owners of the Don Jose Hotel located on the border with Mexico.

According to the reports, the heavily armed and unidentified individuals broke into the hotel lobby where the three Europeans were and took them away to an unknown destination.

The hotel owners said they know of no reason for the triple kidnapping or the identities of the perpetrators.

Authorities Expel 9 Cubans With False Passports

PA2809041189 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Sep 89 p 6

[Text] Nine Cubans were expelled from Guatemala over the weekend after General Immigration Directorate agents on duty at La Aurora Airport discovered that they were carrying false Costa Rican and Spanish passports.

The case was reported to Arturo Chur del Cid, general immigration director, who immediately issued instructions to investigate the Cubans' arrival in Guatemala.

The "tourists" who tried to deceive the Guatemalan authorities had arrived at the air terminal on a private jet and showed Costa Rican and Spanish passports as identification papers.

It was discovered that the passports were forgeries, that the "tourists" were Cubans and not Costa Ricans or Spaniards as they had pretended, and that they had arrived from Panama, a country which the immigration authorities feel serves as a bridge for many unlawful international activities.

The nine Cubans were expelled for violating Guatemala's immigration laws. A woman who was carrying a small girl cried and confessed that they were Cubans, and said they did not want to return to their country.

It was noted that several cases of this type have already been discovered here as a result of the stringent measures Chur has placed into effect.

Nicaragua

President Ortega Holds News Conference 26 Sep

PA2609195289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1450 GMT 26 Sep 89

[News conference by President Daniel Ortega with local and foreign reporters and moderator Marlin Girado at the International Press Club in Managua—live]

[Text] [Girado] Let us begin with the first question by the ASSOCIATED PRESS reporter.

[Filarte] I am Margarita Filarte from ASSOCIATED PRESS. In your government platform, you promise very specific things. For example, you promise to increase economic growth by 5 percent and to increase exports by 20 percent. You also include many social programs and other things. How exactly do you plan to do all that? Are you expecting more foreign aid? And if so, from whom in particular? Are you counting on the lifting of the U.S. economic embargo? How do you plan to achieve all those economic plans? Thank you.
[Ortega] [Passage indistinct] and the United States [passage indistinct] [station announcer interrupts to tell the mobile unit at the Press Club that the radio signal is very poor]. [passage indistinct]

This has been a basically political struggle, [words indistinct] and also an economic struggle. At present, we are experiencing another political confrontation. This is a political confrontation rather than a military one. The economic and military struggle now has a political expression: the election process. This has happened because of the U.S. failure to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution militarily and because of the U.S. failure to destroy the revolution through its economic embargo and through other economic means.

The United States now has no other choice than to accept the challenge presented by the revolution: We are now challenging the United States to fight in the political electoral arena. This will be a definitive battle, because it will create a new situation both inside and outside Nicaragua. The local polarization will decrease immediately after the elections. The polarization that the United States has created in the international community will also decrease. That will automatically open new sources of financial backing for Nicaragua. In fact, we have not broken ties with the IMF. We have criticized its policy, but above all, we have criticized the U.S. policy. We wish the IMF were not an instrument of U.S. policy. We are in favor of a new international economic order. A new international economic order would change the IMF attitude toward Nicaragua. The IMF is only an instrument of the international economic order supported by U.S. policy, the industrialized countries, and the developed countries.

We have maintained our ties with the IMF, the World Bank, the IDB [International Development Bank], with all international organizations, and with the international community. We are sure the European countries will open more sources of financial aid immediately after the elections. If Europe has been unable to give us all the financial aid the current economic program demands this year, it is for political reasons and not for financial reasons. Europe has no problem in delivering $250 million to Nicaragua. That amount is pennies for the European economy. If we have been unable to receive the funds—despite the efforts Sweden has made by calls to international meetings—is because of the pressure the United States has exercised and the U.S. political attitude toward Nicaragua.

We know that once the elections are over, [words indistinct] flow of financial aid will be opened for us in Europe. Similarly, we are sure that after the elections, other countries, such as Japan, will conduct a more active trade and financial policy toward Nicaragua.

I would say that our government platform is even moderate. Our platform is overly moderate. As I said, we wanted to be realistic. We did not want to create expectations that went beyond what we could really do. We preferred not to surpass our goals. We preferred to [word indistinct] our goals. I am sure, however, that the situation after 25 February, when the Nicaraguan democratic, popular, and revolutionary process is ratified through the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] election triumph, we will have large resources available to us and our government platform will be [word indistinct]. I am sure of that.

[Girado] Oscar, go ahead.

[Reporter] I am Oscar [last name indistinct] of UNO-MASUNO. Commander Daniel Ortega, press agency reports have started to detail the upcoming visit of

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Nicaragua. It seems to me that in May 1986, your government withdrew 10 Cuban military advisers from Nicaragua. With the intention of seeking an overall, political solution to the Central American conflict, would your government be willing to withdraw socialist bloc military advisers from Nicaragua? In addition, I would like to know, what topics will you discuss with Foreign Minister Shevarnadze?
[Ortega] First of all, we have friendly relations with the Soviet Union [words indistinct] cooperation in all fields. Comrade Shevardnadze's visit to Nicaragua [2-minute break in reception].

...not only those multilateral aspects where both USSR and Nicaragua maintain good communications to strengthen the [words indistinct] Central American peace. We will also talk about our bilateral relations to continue developing and strengthening these relations. We will bear in mind that in the USSR, there have been very profound changes, and these profound changes lead us to a necessary reorganization of our relations in the commercial and economic fields, in the scientific and technical cooperation fields, in all aspects with the USSR. It is important that there is political willingness on the part of the USSR to maintain its relations with Nicaragua, contributing toward the development of Nicaragua and toward the peace process in the Central American region.

[Curtis] My name is Curtis of CBS news. Mr President: How does the FSLN, and you in particular, see the lack of organization and quarrels among the opposition? Do you think that they will at some point get their act together, organize themselves, and come up with a powerful rival for you?
[Ortega] We do have a powerful rival—the United States of America. For this very reason, there is no real opposition here, but rather an artificial opposition. The United States is the true opposition of Nicaragua. This is clearly expressed in the situation that you have brought up. These situations point out that the opposition parties are clearly showing the negative influence of the U.S. interventionist policy. Either they use the contras to intervene in Nicaraguan politics, or they use political forces.

What they actually do is destabilize the possibilities of an electoral process, where there are true opposition forces within the national framework that could be constructive and truly contribute toward peace and national reconciliation.

That is not possible, because the United States is the opposition party we face in these elections. The elections here are not against specific persons or parties under a certain name or slogan. Elections here are between the United States and Nicaragua.

Obviously, President Bush has been conducting efforts through Secretary of State Baker before the U.S. Congress to obtain the approval of funds supposedly for democracy, to strengthen democracy in Nicaragua, and to strengthen their political forces in Nicaragua. We have even heard about a $9 million fund.

This is the same story as when the United States began to openly discuss financing the contras. In the beginning, the United States said it did not support the contras, because the aid was sent covertly at first. However, when this aid became obvious, when President Reagan publicly defended the contras and the U.S. Congress began to discuss financing the contras, when the United States clearly defined its policy against Nicaragua—the embargo, mining of ports, and other well-known actions—the Nicaraguan people and the international community recognized that the contras were just a military expression of U.S. policy. They recognized that the contras were not an opposition force or a rebel movement that began naturally here in Nicaragua against the revolution, but a mercenary force.

The expectations that could have been created here about the emergence of a real opposition in the electoral process have been killed by the U.S. interventionist policy, by the U.S. Embassy here, and by the meddling of some Latin American ambassadors, who have been preparing the electoral slates and pressuring the opposition forces that have tried to organize themselves under their own profile.

However, the United States has told them: No, you have to get organized in such-and-such a manner, otherwise, there will be no money. Thus, what has actually happened here is that a mercenary force in the political field has been organized. Before, the mercenary forces were organized in the military field. Now, the mercenary forces are organized in the political field. Now, it is a matter of using funds for the mercenary forces in the political field, while the mercenary forces in the military field are given a certain amount of support through so-called humanitarian aid to continue to carry out their criminal actions, even though a demobilization plan is under way that puts these mercenary forces in a difficult siutation. Therefore, in a way the United States is accepting the defeat of the mercenary forces, but is transferring the confrontation to the political field.

Thus, here, it is not a matter of confronting the people. This is not a matter of mentioning names or any opposition party. The FSLN will wage a struggle against U.S. policy, against the interventionist policy, against the terrorist policy of the United States, which does not respect international law. As I said, the United States is organizing its mercenary forces in the political field. The U.S. Government—that is, President Bush... [changes thought] I have read Baker's letter sent to Congressman Tom Foley requesting funds for these political mercenary forces.

[Lane] I have two questions on the international field, Mr President. In the first place, the United States has been accusing... [moderator Girado interrupts] Pardon me? Yes, of course, my name is Charles Lane, of NEWSWEEK magazine. The U.S. Government has been

recently accusing the Nicaraguan Government of providing some weapons, AK rifles, to the Salvadoran guerrillas. Meanwhile, the guerrillas claim that these have been purchased from the contras. I would like to hear Nicaragua's side of the story.

I would also like you to make an objective analysis for me. Do you believe that the current Central American situation favors the revolutionary forces?

[Ortega] As for the weapons for the Salvadoran revolution, let me tell you that the Salvadoran revolution has its own armaments and logistics. Last night I was reading an article that was published in a U.S. military magazine. It is an article written by a U.S. colonel, or a general, who was in charge of special commands in Vietnam, in Laos. He criticizes the manner in which the counterrevolution and the United States have handled their policy with these mercenary forces.

This high-ranking U.S. officer also pointed out that the Salvadoran rebel movement has maintained itself inside Salvadoran territory and has found ways of receiving logistics support—in both armaments and food supplies—inside El Salvador.

On the other hand, the counterrevolutionaries, the mercenary forces, are totally dependent on the logistics of the U.S. Government. He criticizes U.S. policy with the counterrevolutionaries and at the same time recognizes how the Salvadoran forces have their own sources in El Salvador. He does not deny that they might have some foreign support, but he emphasizes the fact that the basic forces in all fields, as well as the integration of political revolutionary forces to the Salvadoran movement and the logistics, training, and everything else, are in Salvadoran territory.

Therefore, I want to stress the strength which the Salvadoran revolutionary movement has on its own. It is not depending on the aid that might pass through Central American countries. I have discussed this topic on many occasions, and the truth is that when arms cargos have been uncovered in Honduras—for example, when they were enroute to El Salvador, or in El Salvador—the reports said that this cargo was coming from Costa Rica. Now, if the cargo was coming from Costa Rica, it came through Nicaragua. However, how was it allowed out of Costa Rica? And how was it allowed to pass through Honduras and arrive in El Salvador, as it was captured in El Salvador?

For this, we have a very specific proposal that has to do with this mechanism of the United Nations—ONUCA [Group of UN Observers to Central America]—that will carry out a control task along the border areas so that there will not be any arms trafficking affecting any state of Central America. It is not only for El Salvador, but for the entire Central American area, so that there will not be any arms transshipment. If we put this mechanism into practice, we will at least be ensuring a very important element so that there will not be any arms transshipment.

I can affirm that many of the rifles given by the United States to the counterrevolution—to their mercenaries in Honduras—have been bought by the Salvadoran rebel movement and have also been purchased by rightist Guatemalan groups. Rightist Guatemalan groups [repeats himself] are buying these weapons. This is a very sensitive subject because these rightist Guatemalan groups, which are being armed with these weapons, have the support of Salvadoran rightist groups linked to ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance]. All these rightist groups have a common plan to topple the government headed by President Vinicio Cerezo. They are not happy with Cerezo's administration and they want to topple it. This is the information I have.

Regarding the information I have just given, it is important that I highlight the big increase lately in murders of Guatemalan student, peasant, and labor leaders. We know they are not victims of government policies. President Cerezo is not ordering the murder of these persons. They are being murdered by known paramilitary groups that have been vigorously increasing their activities in Guatemala recently. These are the groups that have armed themselves with the contras' weapons. My point is that the United States gave these weapons to the counterrevolution, and with this action promoted greater destabilization in the Central American region, not only in Nicaragua. It has destabilized the rest of the Central American countries, too.

[Girado] Ronnie.

[Lovelow] I am Ronnie Lovelow from CNN. I would first like to ask President Ortega what the FSLN is doing to get people to register so they can vote. Also, what type of political campaign has been planned to ensure the FSLN's victory in February?

[Ortega] Well, our political party is making a nationwide effort to get people to register for the voting process. FSLN members visit people at their homes, regardless of whether they favor us or not. Our only interest is ensuring that people will vote. We have been working on this and we expect a massive response to the registration process that starts on 1 October. This will guarantee that people will vote.

Regarding our plan to guarantee victory, I would say we already have the necessary votes. We do not really have to do anything special or spectacular. We are constantly tuned in to our people, and we are constantly working with them. People know that the FSLN is always there and is with them at the most difficult times and places. The FSLN is always with the people. We just have to continue working, with a bit more energy, more discipline, and more sacrifice, and people will vote for us in an overwhelming manner at the February 1990 elections.

[Girado] We will give each of you a chance to pose a question.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Mr President, how are your present relations with the Catholic Church? Is the FSLN not afraid, for example, that Cardinal Miguel

Obando y Bravo might call Nicaraguans to vote for a certain alliance or group? This would detract many votes from the FSLN. What do you think would happen if Cardinal Obando y Bravo favors one or the other sector?

[Ortega] I have talked with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. He has voiced his willingness to continue to strive for peace. He told me he is not committed to any political party. He is committed to the peace efforts of all Nicaraguans. He has made appeals to turn peace in Nicaraguan into a reality. He has made appeals to take specific steps for peace. I have informed him of all the steps we have taken. I communicate well with him. I am convinced Cardinal Obando y Bravo will continue to engage in this sort of action, I mean, actions that place him above the political differences we Nicaraguans have. That is logically the role of the church. The church cannot adopt a certain stance with regard to some political group, because it would lose its role of unifying political and social forces that are at odds. There are as many Catholics who support the revolution as there are Catholics who do not support the revolution. That is why the church must play a role that is above political differences. As Cardinal Obando y Bravo has rightly noted, he is calling on the people to register to vote so that problems are settled through elections, not through military confrontation.

That is why I think Cardinal Obando y Bravo's appeal is very positive. I support it. I also make that appeal as president of Nicaragua so that all the people in Nicaragua are registered, starting on 1 October and the subsequent Sundays in October, until the registration period ends. This way the people will participate en mass in the elections.

[Reporter] I believe Mr Eduard Shevardnadze said in the United States that the USSR has no control over the weapons shipment that came from Cuba to Nicaragua. In effect, he confirmed that weapons shipments come from Cuba, not the USSR. Can you confirm that? How do you feel about this topic?
[Ortega] I think that one would have to wait for Mr Shevardnadze's arrival in Nicaragua to comment on this topic. Aft. a direct talk with him, we will give you our views on this matter. It would be rather risky to comment on news reports—with all due respect to newsmen. We prefer to wait for Mr Shevardnadze to arrive in Nicaragua. He will be arriving in a few days. So, you will have to be a little patient.

[Howard] Joan Howard, from TIME magazine. I also think the goals outlined in the FSLN platform are pretty specific. However, in the area of defense, the platform mentions an army adequate for defense. I would like to know what is adequate? Can you cite numbers?
[Ortega] An army adequate for defense is one that costs the country less, while guaranteeing the mobilization of the people for defense. Defense must rest on the people. We cannot think that defense rests on the army. This is logic that leads to the arms race. This is the logic that leads to the creation of huge armies, even in times of peace. There are many countries that have huge armies and huge military expenditures during peacetime. These countries are constantly acquiring weaponry without a war, an aggression, or any justification.

This is the opposite of what happened in Nicaragua. As the war that the United States imposed on us ends, we will continue to relax the defense of the country with regard to the people, the workers, and everyone capable of defending the country. Thus, we will structure a small army. I really mean a small army, reduced in numbers in very noticeable terms in relation to the army's current size. Of course, we will also guarantee work alternatives to discharged soldiers. However, we must consider that we include the Unconventional Warfare Batallions in the permanent forces. These battalions are chiefly comprised of young men doing active service. In times of peace, a young man doing his military service will have minimum training in military defense. He will be able to spend most his time in the service engaged in constructive or productive tasks to support the reconstruction of Nicaragua.

[Girado] Go ahead.

[Reporter] Various opposition leaders have stated that the...
[Ortega, interrupting] Identify yourself please.

[Alvarez] I am Juan Jose Alvarez from WTN, European Television. The opposition leaders have said that the nomination of you and Sergio Ramirez to the presidency and vice presidency of Nicaragua, respectively, are a sign of the vulnerability the FSLN is currently experiencing. What can you tell us about that?
[Ortega] They should be glad, they should be glad. They should be glad and happy if they believe they are going to defeat our ticket very easily. They should not have those worried and upset faces I have seen.

[Koon] Mr President, I am Tim Koon of the FINANCIAL TIMES. The issue of government corruption or of bad government administration has not only concerned LA PRENSA newspaper reporters, but also FSLN militants. In fact, various delegates mentioned that issue at the FSLN convention on Sunday, 2 days ago. If I could, I would like to quote a statement by Nicaraguan Comptroller General Emilio Baltodano. He made this statement at the National Assembly this month. He said, quote, the administrative and financial disorder of a large part of the state apparatus, added to delayed accounting balances and the lack of internal control and up-to-date and reliable information, is the result of the lack of importance given to control, unquote.

In the FSLN government platform there is a paragraph saying that the government will struggle against state corruption. My question is: Why will the Nicaraguan people believe in that election promise if the government has not done much in that field in the last 10 years?
[Ortega] It is not easy to fight government corruption. All highly developed countries where there is great government control frequently experience large state corruption scandals. There are cases of corrupt ministers

and prime ministers in the United States, in European and Asian countries, and in other highly-developed countries. It seems that the developed countries have still not found ways to control and fight state corruption, despite the efficiency that exists in those countries.

Honestly, I wonder about that. I wonder about that because I have talked with Comrade Baltodano about that issue, and we say: Here is this problem. Everything started from scratch. The revolution triumphed, and we have all been building everything amid very difficult conditions.

This means organizing accounting systems that did not exist, imposing a fiscal policy in several sectors, and not only... [changes thought] corruption does not only prevail within the government. It is everywhere. We have even been fighting widespread tax evasion. Before the revolution those who had more money in the country paid no taxes. Only those who had less money paid taxes. They were the ones who had to pay taxes, not the rich people, who worked in alliance with Somozism and evaded the payment of their taxes. They had ways of evading taxes through decapitalization. In other words, corruption was evident in many ways.

Now then, we undeniably inherited those deformations. Many of the men participating in the national reconstruction efforts launched after the revolution are men forged by the old society, and we cannot claim that they have completely eradicated all those vices and methods. This makes the work carried out during 10 years of revolution much more complex, but I think that this administrative corruption problem goes beyond the objective conditions in a country like Nicaragua, which has been impoverished and thrust into underdevelopment, or any other Third World country.

This problem is more acute and appears more systematically in developed countries, even though one would not expect this in a developed country that has great controls and computer systems and where technology is used to exert control on the government and society, thus preventing corruption.

I do not know. These scandals blow up every day. Every day the international media report on scandals of this nature in countries that are developed and politically mature but unable to stop these actions. This does not mean I can justify why problems of a similar nature occur in the Nicaraguan revolution. It is important that we be responsible—more important, I believe, than using computers and such equipment—and it is also important to change the way men think. This is the most important variable. It is important to have computers and all types of technical or scientific elements, but they are not determining factors. This is obvious, since the developed, northern countries have all these elements and scandals of administrative corruption constantly arise. However, corruption will not be so rampant if the leaders and administrators—even if they have very little resources—change their way of thinking, change their mentality. However, even if we have all the resources... [changes thought] We talk a lot about the lack of organization here. Correct, we need more organization. We lack more technical personnel to head the different offices. Correct, we need more technical personnel. Oh, we also lack more computers and all that because now we are in the computer age and everybody wants one. That is true, we need more computers. We need more facsimile machines because we need quicker communications. That is true, we need more faxes for quicker communications. However, of what good is all this if the men who are in command are not convinced that they must act correctly? They are going to use all these resources to cheat.

This is what happens in developed capitalist countries: Technology is used to cheat. I think that problems are not going to be resolved by adopting administrative-type measures or measures of a technical or of a techno-administrative nature. Problems are going to be resolved when we blend administrative and technological measures—since it is a fact that computers do a better job than a piece of paper and a pencil—with awareness, which is fundamental to all this.

We have to wage a campaign so that people holding administrative posts are people with a frame of mind in line with the expectations and demands of the Nicaraguan people. We are working in that direction.

These state workers must function face to face with the people. This policy of ours is important because, when this kind of confrontation takes place, charges are made and situations are denounced, and this allows us to see problems that sometimes are concealed, problems that are not noticed until the people and state workers are put face to face.

In Nicaragua there are examples of high-ranking officials—ministers, deputy ministers, managers of enterprises, directors of state institutions, and other state workers—who have made it evident they have a high level of awareness.

If we put corruption and good administrative work on a scale, we will find that we do have a positive balance. What happens is that whenever a crime is committed there is a big scandal, and this makes the news. Whenever everything is all right, that is no news. The fact that Nicaraguan ministers have a very small salary is no news. Not even the local media report on this. The fact that ministers have accepted a constrained life because they have the political will to serve the Nicaraguan people does not make the news. These ministers could easily be making $6,000, or $10,000, or $12,000, or $20,000 working for a private firm or abroad, but they have chosen to work for the revolutionary state. All they get is a means of transportation. That, and a salary way below what many workers in the productive sector make, is all they get. However, this is not being reported.

We have ministers and other officials who possess a great spirit of sacrifice. The logic that applies in other countries does not apply here. In some countries when someone is appointed minister, people say: How lucky! He has been appointed minister. In those countries people automatically link the post of minister with the attainment of wealth. The same applies to directors of institutions. That does not apply here. That does not apply here.

I would say that these are isolated cases, more than anything else, and many times these are [words indistinct] in this field. We have had some cases. For example, a man who was our ambassador, our representative to the United States—Mr Fiallos—covered up a theft with alleged political activity. In other words, he broke away from the revolution to conceal his theft. He stole some money. We investigated; he had not given the money to the contras. He kept it.

Then there was a gentleman who was an official of the INSSBI [Nicaraguan Institute of Social Security and Welfare] who was under investigation. The Comptroller General's Office was concerned. He was not jailed while the investigation was under way because our authorities wanted additional and stronger evidence against him. The man asked for permission to leave for Miami to see some sick relative. Sinning on the side of generosity, we granted the permission. He stayed in Miami and later claimed political reasons for doing so. He said he wanted nothing to do with the revolution and that he was disillusioned with it.

These were isolated cases at those levels. Most of our officials do have a new attitude about their work. I would say one cannot make generalizations concerning administrative corruption. I do insist that we have to fight this by changing (?men's) consciences. We have to keep hammering on this. A change in conscience is what will help us bring down the degree of disarray or wrongdoing.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]
[Ortega] I think this process is moving forward. The Central American governments have the political resolve to enforce this agreement. I think the Honduran Government has such political resolve. Judging from the statements it issued recently and bearing in mind the [word indistinct] UN representatives who are involved in the demobilization process, I feel that the Honduran Government is truly interested in getting rid of the contras as soon as possible. Hondurans know this is their chance, that if they do not get rid of the contras now, the contras will stay there for who knows how long, and that the contras will stay in Honduras.

What we want is for the United States to contribute to this effort. This is what is lacking. What remains to be done is for the United States, for President Bush, to devote the funds currently assigned as humanitarian aid to the contras in Honduras to the process of contra demobilization. This way President Bush would support the peace agreement signed by the Central American presidents and make a substantial contribution toward peace in Central America. Independent of the fact that the United States could solve these things by using the funds for the demobilization, many of the contras are (?demanding repatriation). They continue to accept the demobilization plan. [passage indistinct] [16-second break in reception]

[Reporter] Does this mean the FSLN maintains its usual platform? In your opinion, what is new that the FSLN offers to the Nicaraguan people during the coming term? [Ortega] What is new is our proposal to build homes and schools, to improve the salaries of workers, to protect the standard of living of the population under conditions of war. This is very difficult, and we have had to uphold this banner under conditions of war for 10 years. The question now is to uphold this banner under conditions of peace. What is new is that we are now conquering peace and we will have definitive peace after the elections in February. Then the FSLN will unquestionably be in a better position to move forward with a number of programs that have been affected by war during the past few years. Social programs, for instance, were affected by the war and everyone knows this perfectly well. There will be no more contras destroying schools. The United States will no longer pursue the policy of financing the contras, and international financing will be made available to Nicaragua.

Therefore, we are going to begin a phase that will be very similar to the phase that began when the revolution triumphed. This is like a new victory of the revolution, a new emergence of the revolution after 10 years of harsh confrontation, in which we will have the resources to meet the goal that we set at the triumph of the revolution, the goal of reconstructing the country. We were unable to rebuild the country as we had hoped, as we desired, as the FSLN wanted, and as the Nicaraguan people wanted, because the war began. However, now that we have earned the right to have our revolution, now that we have defeated the Yankee policy on the military level, and once we defeat the Yankee policy on the electoral level in February, we will have a new situation that will be very similar to the situation that existed in 1979, immediately after the revolutionary triumph.

I am convinced that there will be financing, that there will be investments in Nicaragua; and from that perspective, the process of national reconstruction will move forward in a time of peace. Therefore, everything will be better. Everything will be much better.

[Girado] Alvarez.

[Alvarez] Oscar Alvarez from Radio Sandino. Comrade President, in the effort to win the peace that you have mentioned, will the revolutionary government extend the cease-fire period, the halt in offensive operations, in pursuit of national harmony?

Another question is: International news dispatches have announced that you will visit Arab countries, specifically

Kuwait. What other countries do you plan to visit, and what is the purpose of your trip?
[Ortega] Well, as for the halt in offensive operations, we will maintain that policy. The policy has had good results. The peasants in the war zones value that policy. The peasants have recognized, in view of the halt in offensive operations, that it is the contras who bring death. This has become very clear to the peasants, and they repudiate the activities of the counterrevolutionaries. This also leads many contras to ask themselves: What are we doing here? If there is a halt in offensive operations, the U.S. policy is no longer our support. We have already lost the war, so let us accept the demobilization plan. The revolution is extending its hands to us. Thus, this leads many contras to demobilize on the spot. We will therefore continue with the halt in offensive operations.

As for my upcoming trip, in October I plan to visit the GDR, which is going to commemorate its 40th anniversary. I will probably visit other countries, too. This is currently in the works. I cannot tell you in advance what countries I will visit. We established good ties in Belgrade, and I had the opportunity to meet with leaders and chiefs of state of the Gulf states. These are countries with which we have always had a good relationship in the international sphere. In international forums we have always had their cooperation in the political and diplomatic areas, and that was an opportunity to meet with the leaders of those countries. I met in Belgrade with leaders of Kuwait and Qatar, as well as other chiefs of state who were there at the meeting of nonaligned countries. I talked with them, they expressed great respect and liking for Nicaragua, and they invited me to visit their respective countries. I also invited them to visit Nicaragua.

I also met with the king of Jordan. In other words, I personally established new links with political leaders with whom I had not developed that kind of ties before, even though we already had good relations with their political and diplomatic representatives. If the opportunity arises, it would undoubtedly be in the interest of Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan people for these ties to be made closer by a visit by me to those countries.

[Budrow] Mr President, I am Richard Budrow of the LOS ANGELES TIMES. You have said that, for political reasons, Nicaragua has not received economic aid—at least not enough to contribute to the recovery of the economy—from Europe and the United States. Do you think that if the Sandinist Front wins the elections but the opposition gets a good percentage of the votes, and taking into consideration the political reasons you mention, that it will be necessary for the front to form a coalition government or to somehow include opposition sectors in the government to secure the aid that is necessary for the recovery of the economy?
[Ortega] First of all, I have to say that I do not see how the opposition is going to get a good percentage of the votes. I am saying this sincerely: I do not imagine how they can. The opposition will get votes, without a doubt, but very few votes. The FSLN will get most of the votes. The people are not going to vote for a loser. The people know who the winner is and the people will vote for the winner—the Sandinist Front. They know that the Sandinist Front represents Nicaragua. The people will vote for Nicaragua, not for the policy the United States has been trying to impose on the Nicaraguan people. They will not vote for the United States, and this is what our opponents represent.

I insist that what is really important is this: We are entering a new phase in our relations with the United States. This is most important. This is a new phase, because after February the big neighbor of ours that for 10 years has been trying to push us out—a very big neighbor that has been trying to get us out of our own country, that has used every single means to push us out—will have no alternative but to say: I am not going to insist. That neighbor of mine is small, but I cannot get him out. I have no choice but to get along with him.

I base this on my belief that there will be an understanding between the United States and Nicaragua. It will happen. The effect that the Nicaraguan elections will have in the United States and in the international community will open political, economic, and financial doors that will facilitate our country's reconstruction. I am completely sure about this.

The suit Nicaragua has filed at the International Court of Justice so that the United States pays us an indemnity for the damage it has inflicted on us should not be underestimated either. An indemnity is due. We could reach an out-of-court arrangement with the United States, if it is willing to do that, but in the meantime we are insisting at the court that the United States must pay an indemnity to Nicaragua.

We have filed suit at the International Court, and I am sure that it will rule in our favor and say that the United States must pay an indemnity to Nicaragua.

[Budrow] President Ortega, when you spoke of the platform, you said, from what I understood, that the situation has changed, that now there are more possibilities of peace and fewer war threats. This means that the situation could be different. What issues will be priorities in your new platform, considering the new possibilities in the new situation?
[Ortega] We have to function taking into consideration the political, social, economic, and military development in the past 10 years. Everything indicates that the warmongers have been defeated, that the war cannot be revived, and that what will follow the elections is peace, total peace. The Nicaraguan people have conquered peace with many sacrifices. Assuming we are to have a situation of peace, we can also assume we will have more resources available to make everything better. When we say everything, we mean everything, but with an emphasis on the production aspect. This aspect is of course important, because production permits a better organized economy and the reaching of economic goals.

In other words, the economic program, which is aimed at controlling inflation and encouraging the production of exportable agricultural products, will gather momentum after the elections. This will provide the groundwork for a more rational policy in the social sector, meaning that we cannot take off like we did after the triumph of the revolution when we began with a general policy because we had a lot of resources. We have learned something. We have learned something and have acquired experience, and the people have learned something. It is now a matter of making sure that our real growth in the economic sector leads to a real growth in the social sector. We will not go beyond our limits in the economic and social sectors.

Consequently, the figures we have used in the program—when talking about 6,000 houses per year, when talking about [words indistinct] per year for the population, when talking about roads and all that, when talking about schools and education, when talking about health services—were based on the estimated growth that the country would achieve once a national reconstruction plan is launched again. The national reconstruction was a great rallying cry after the revolution triumphed, and it will become a great rallying cry after the war and after the elections. Nicaragua's reconstruction will come after the elections, and we are sure that we will receive the international community's support for Nicaragua's reconstruction. We will implement our economic program with more resources. That is the difference. This will represent a noticeable improvement for all the sectors of the country.

I personally believe—and so does the FSLN National Directorate—that the government program for the next few years must give a special emphasis to the children. What really affects us is that all the efforts exerted in the early years to help the children—children who had to work at an early age, children who were vagrants, children who were involved in crimes—were frustrated. This does not mean we have done nothing for the children. We have done a lot for the children, but we could have done a lot more. Certain things got out of control, even though we had managed to plan a series of activities to benefit many children in our country. The plans were foiled at a given time, and that meant that the children participating in an education or improvement program went back to the streets. Now you see them selling newspapers or Chiclets, or becoming juvenile delinquents. We worry about the children and we want them to have an education. We worry about the children and we want to protect their lives. Therefore, I might say that a special emphasis will be given to the children's situation and we will concentrate our efforts in that sector.

[Girado] Linda Ortez.

[Ortez] Commander Ortega, two questions: First, how old are you? Second, does the pardon granted to former contras and the fact that the contras will put down their weapons represent a threat to the state's security? Will this increase the crime levels?

[Ortega] I was born on 11 November 1945 in a small town called La Libertad, Chontales Department. The town is also the birthplace of Nicaragua's first cardinal, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. In other words, Nicaragua's first cardinal and the first president of free Nicaragua were both born in that humble town. That is a lucky coincidence. The name of the town, La Libertad, is also a coincidence. Imagine that. We could write a lot about this. We could even write a novel on the topic. I will be 44 years old on 11 November. A round number, to quote the comrade who announced the delegates representing Region No. 1 at the people's assembly. I was 33 years old, another round number, when the revolution began, and I will be 44 years old in November.

As for the contras who are putting down their weapons, I am convinced that, as most of them are of peasant extraction, it will be easy to resettle them in rural areas. We have to consider the fact that we are recovering territory in areas that were ravaged by the war. We need to make more land available for those who agree to the demobilization plan. We are sure that the United Nations will also seek resources, and we have not lost hope that the United States will approve resources to support the effort to provide security for the people who demobilize, so that they can have lands and tools to work with, because of course crime will increase in the measure that there are no jobs. However, if we guarantee them employment, that will allow us to avoid an increase in crime.

[Reporter] President Ortega, a few moments ago you spoke of entering a new phase with the United States and of arriving at a relaxation of tension. Does this mean that the FSLN will modify its traditional program in some way?

[Ortega] We have not modified our traditional program, which has been one of political pluralism, a mixed economy, and nonalignment. Those have been our basic tenets. In this regard, we have also spoken of the socialist orientation of the revolution, since we believe that it is necessary to reduce the gap between those who have more and those who have less, within a mental framework of justice, equity, and productivity, rather than within a paternalistic framework.

Therefore, we have to recognize that there has been a boxing match under way that has lasted for more than 15 rounds. It is a fight that has lasted for 10 years between two great opponents: one great, gigantic opponent that is the United States of America, and another great opponent that is the small nation of Nicaragua, a nation that is small, but a great opponent. Thus, we have been confronting each other for 10 years. What has been the result? The result is that the United States was unable to knock out Nicaragua. It could not knock out Nicaragua. It threw jabs at us and it threw low punches, and the referee did not call it on those actions until the time finally came in which the United States was called to task at the International Court of Justice. It was told to stop throwing low punches.

We could not be downed, despite the low punches. We could not be knocked out. We were not left stretched out on the canvas. What was left lying on the canvas was the U.S. policy. The United States was knocked out. Therefore, what is the situation now? Well, there is no longer any reason to continue this match, which has already been resolved. The Nicaraguan people, the revolution, the FSLN won.

No boxer who has been knocked out thinks of getting up and telling his opponent: Let us continue fighting. The fight has been lost. The United States has lost the fight. Therefore, it is logical that, from now on, after the elections, instead of seeking ways to fight with Nicaragua, the United States should seek ways to reach an understanding with Nicaragua.

Well, this does not mean that each side does not have its own characteristics and beliefs, that we do not have differences. We have ideological and political differences, but I believe that we can find points of convergence for the benefit of peace, democracy, and stability in the Central American region, and the United States and Nicaragua can work together to strengthen those points of agreement. This is what the FSLN is willing to do: to work with the United States to strengthen our points of agreement.

[Reporter] Mr President, two questions: First, why does the FSLN electoral platform not include the plan for the construction of a canal across Nicaragua as one national reconstruction project? The other question is: You have said that you will continue the halt in offensive operations, but at the Tela summit meeting you said that there will be no truce for the contras who do not demobilize in December. My question is whether the cease-fire will be maintained until December or until February.

[Ortega] Well, when the December meeting approaches, we will see whether or not the cease-fire is to be maintained after the deadline expires. We have to assess this, so I could not give you an advance answer in this regard. One thing is clear: Once the deadline expires, any contra who does not agree to the demobilization plan and tries to continue attacking our people will be eliminated. That is definite.

As for the canal, that is included in the program, in the area of foreign investment. A canal through Nicaragua would be a worldwide investment. We believe that a canal through Nicaragua has to be the heritage of mankind. All peoples have to participate in this project, not just certain countries, because otherwise it would not contribute to the security of international traffic. A canal becomes a focus for political or military conflict when it is not the property of all mankind.

Therefore, it is included under the general topic, although not mentioned specifically. It is under the area of foreign investment. Moreover, since we are justifiably concerned about matters of ecology and the environment related to the construction of a canal, there would naturally have to be a process of discussion involving experts in these matters, so that if a project of this kind should be built in our country the environment would not be harmed. We could not permit the environment to be harmed by a project of this kind.

[Girado] George.

[Rodriguez] Mr President, George Rodriguez of INTER-PRESS. I wish to ask you two things. One, you recently said that an agreement between Nicaragua and the United States is coming. I wanted to know if you could expand on that somewhat and tell us on what it will be based, even if only in general terms. The other question concerns the following: Yesterday two YATAMA leaders returned to Nicaragua. They said that they had come with the intention of converting the YATAMA into a party and that they plan to hold an assembly on the Atlantic Coast to see what people think of this. I would like to know what the FSLN thinks of this and what this could mean for the FSLN.

[Ortega] I think it is very important that people who were involved in counterrevolutionary activities are becoming reincorporated into the national life. They are renouncing the armed struggle that was promoted by the United States, and they are accepting the multiparty system that the revolution has guaranteed. This is evidence of the strength and victory of the revolution. If the revolution had not won over the aggression, those people would logically not be putting down their weapons. And the multiparty system has room for them here. As for the coast, there is a very important factor that I hope those who are returning to that area will take into account—the autonomy process. I think it is very important that they take this autonomy process into account in carrying out their political activities.

As for the understanding with the United States, the world is experiencing detente at the global level. Of course, this does not have to be paralleled at the regional level. However, the Central American countries, the Central American governments, have expressed our commitment to peace, and the United States has no choice but to respect this commitment. First, it tried to prevent the signing of the agreements, but we signed the Esquipulas Agreement on 6 August. Later we reached new agreements in Costa Rica, then there were new agreements in El Salvador, and finally new agreements in Honduras, and we will have new agreements in Managua in December.

Therefore, by the will of the Central American presidents, in what I would call an act of Latin American or Third World sovereignty, we are confronting the U.S. policy. This is an element that is added to detente. In this regard, I would say that detente at the worldwide level is supported by our tiny contribution, which is the effort of the Central American presidents against the political will of one of the subscribers of world detente, the United States, which has been against detente at the regional level. It has tried to impose its political viewpoints and its formulas. Its first response has been the use of force.

Therefore, it is based on this fact that I am convinced, in view of the available information which is increasingly clear, that after the elections, in view of the overwhelming victory that the FSLN will win, with the United States convinced that the only force that can give Nicaragua stability is the FSLN... [changes thought] That is an important point: the United States has recognized by now that the only political force that can provide stability and that can govern is the FSLN. To even imagine that a party financed by the United States will win and be able to govern would be chaos. That would be chaos. No one doubts this. Private producers, serious businessmen know perfectly well that this would mean chaos, a catastrophe in Nicaragua. Thus, the FSLN means security. The FSLN also means security that will enable us to contribute to peace and stability in the Central American region. It can have a positive influence in this regard.

Therefore, from that perspective, there are enough reasons to believe that there will gradually be—I do not believe that it will be an immediate matter, but a gradual one—a revamping of U.S.-Nicaraguan relations. Our differences will continue to be marked, it is true. It is not that with the overcoming of differences Nicaragua will think like the gringos or the gringos will turn into Sandinists. We are not going to become imperialists, nor will the gringos become Sandinists. That is not the case. We are not asking for that. We are not asking the gringos to stop being imperialists. If they have decided to be imperialists and want to be imperialists, well so be it. They will just have to face up to the people. But we are Sandinists. We defend Nicaragua, and we will continue doing so.

Therefore, from that perspective, in which we are going to respect our respective political and ideological positions, we have to seek a way to move closer, to find points of convergence. We have a point of convergence in peace. The United States says it is in favor of peace, and Nicaragua is in favor of peace. That is one point of convergence. The United States says it is in favor of democracy in Nicaragua. The FSLN is in favor of democracy. That is another point of convergence. The United States and Nicaragua say that in Nicaragua—we go farther and say in Central America—there should be no militarization, no foreign military presence. There we have another point of agreement that should be extended to the region, in line with the agreements signed by the Central American presidents. We should control the arms buildup in Central America. We should set arms levels that are reasonable for the Central American countries, and we should eliminate all forms of foreign military presence from the Central American region.

Thus, the United States and Nicaragua have very important points of convergence. The United States has said that it is even willing to contribute in every way to the strengthening of a democratic process in Nicaragua. Well, the democratic process will be strengthened after the February elections with the victory of the FSLN. This means that the United States will have to act in a way that is consistent with its declarations.

I am therefore convinced that the situation that will prevail in Nicaragua after the elections on 25 February will be a new and better situation than the one that has existed for these past 10 years. It will ensure us of national reconstruction and the freedom and sovereignty that we have been defending, and all this without a war, in peace. That is important. The situation will be one of peace, and this will give security to all Nicaraguans.

I wish to emphasize this. Even though I recognize that the political confrontation in these upcoming elections is between the United States and Nicaragua, this should not concern those who are prepared to act like political mercenaries of the United States in our country, because in any case, we are going to defeat them. If the Yankees give them money, we will defeat them. As we defeated the armed mercenaries, we will defeat the political mercenaries. After the elections, they will have every security. We are not threatening, as they are, to expel a great number of people from Nicaragua. They can remain here in peace, with full security, exercising their rights within the pluralist framework that the Nicaraguan people have been defending.

[Reporter] One final question: Commander Ortega, regarding the national dialogue, Commander Bayardo Arce mentioned the last time that this was not the right moment to restart a second round of talks with the opposition political parties. Arce also mentioned that armed contras were campaigning in favor of the National Opposition Union and that your party was going to denounce this before the Supreme Electoral Council. I would like you to give me more details on these two points.
[Ortega] Regarding the dialogue, this was held and there were agreements on a great number of detailed points. Instead of thinking now of new talks, we should instead be thinking of how we are going to ensure that those who signed that agreement comply with it. We are all obliged to comply with the agreement. The agreement obliges everyone, not just one side. Last night I was reviewing all the different points with which the Nicaraguan Government has complied and saw that a great number of points are not being complied with by the parties who signed that agreement. Instead of thinking of new talks, let us implement what we have signed and agreed on. People will otherwise think of the lack of responsibility and feel cheated after having seen us sit down, sign the agreements, and then not put them into practice. The people will ask what good these talks are if we cannot keep what we pledged in the first agreement. Let us first face the people and tell them: Nicaraguan people, we have already complied with 100 percent of the dialogue agreements. After that we can think of a new meeting, but in the meantime we must comply with our agreement.

I was explaining that the United States is organizing mercenaries in political fields and is also using armed mercenaries to back the political mercenaries. This is for

scaring the peasants, but this will not be successful because they will be rejected by the Nicaraguan people. Of course, we will have to file charges so the United States stops encouraging this type of armed group activities and instead plays and fights cleanly and continues the fight in the electoral field without trying to mix the armed contras with the unarmed contras.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]
[Ortega] It is not a question of whether the FSLN is going to win. You can be sure the FSLN is going to win. The opposition will have their political opportunities in the National Assembly in accordance with the number of seats they win. If it is 10, then they shall have 10 deputies at the National Assembly to make proposals on behalf of the opposition. If the opposition makes reasonable proposals, then naturally we ourselves will back them. If, on the other hand, they put forth absurd proposals, then we can not back them. It would seem to me that we could work together with the opposition representatives as long as their proposals are viable and suited to our reality. In fact, we are obliged to work constructively after the elections and end this polarization that may be understandable during political campaining, when there are all sorts of attacks. We see how these people complain, saying we hurl all sorts of personal attacks against them, when in fact it is they who are bent on using calumnies, defamations, and personal attacks.

My policy is not to mention any names. You will not hear me utter any insults against opposition leaders. Also, I am neither going to praise them nor mention them at all. At best, they are merely instruments of U.S. policy. My speech is therefore aimed at defending the Nicaraguan people, Nicaragua, the workers, peasants, students, youths, women, Indians, humble and poor people. My speech is also to defend patriotic producers and businessmen, including those producers and businessmen who, despite not being Sandinists, are going to vote for the FSLN because they know that the FSLN gives them security.

These are the interests I will defend, I will continue to defend. Against whom? Against the United States—my rival. My rival is the U.S. Government and U.S. imperialism. George Bush is my rival and Nicaragua's other candidate. George Bush versus Daniel Ortega—those are the two candidates. The rest are not worth mentioning.

[Reporter] What opposition figures would you incorporate into your government?
[Ortega] We have enough properly trained and experienced people within FSLN ranks, as well as friends of the FSLN, who, despite not being FSLN members, have been helping out and will continue to help out with our country's reconstruction and our country's defense.

[Reporter] Considering that you do not feel the opposition is important, would you reject a direct debate with opposition leaders?
[Ortega] I am willing to hold a debate with George Bush, who is the opposition's top leader. We can hold the debate in Washington, in Managua, or we can do it by satellite. Bush is the head of the opposition and knows what he wants, therefore we can hold discussions with him. We cannot discuss anything with the others, as they do not really know what to say. Bush, on the other hand, knows perfectly well what he wants. I am willing to dare President Bush to a public debate. He heads Nicaragua's political campaign as president of the opposition and is their main financial supporter. I can go to Washington; in fact I have plans to go to Washington to attend the OAS assembly, also to the United Nations in November. Maybe President Bush would agree to hold a debate there. Othwerwise, if he prefers, he could come to Managua, we could hold a debate here. We could broadcast it live. We could also hold a debate by satellite. We can hold a constructive debate on what we want for Nicaragua. You see, he shows a lot of concern about Nicaragua. He is asking for $9 million to finance the opposition. The same way the U.S. Government asked for money for the armed mercenaries, they now convert the mercenaries into political mercenaries and request money for them. We must therefore talk to the person footing the bill. I am therefore willing to talk to Bush and hold a public and constructive debate. This must be a constructive debate. He is concerned about democracy, what then is the U.S. President planning to do for democracy? What is the Nicaraguan president going to do for democracy in Nicaragua? You see, he is meddling, he has meddled, without asking permission from the Nicaraguan people, in Nicaraguan politics. He has meddled in Nicaraguan political, military, and economic fields. The United States has intervened militarily in Nicaragua; they have intervened in our economy and in our politics. Therefore, any discussion must be held with them. I therefore invite President Bush to that debate.

[Reporter] If you were to win the elections, this would mean you will be in power for about 13 years. Would you consider reelection? [crowd laughs]
[Ortega] We cannot think of that at this stage. We must now think of getting the most out of the experience we have gained over these years and enhance it to ensure peace. This is what we want and we would feel completely satisfied with leaving a peaceful Nicaragua.

[Reporter] I am from the [words indistinct] from Berlin. Tomorrow I want to return to the Atlantic coast where three of the main leaders are due to return. Can you explain why there are so many changes to the conditions placed upon these leaders? Also, when they establish their own party on the coast, I imagine this will be the only serious opposition you are going to face. Will you follow the strategy of confrontation, or will you instead try to incorporate them into your own platform?
[Ortega] The coast has a very special situation, of which the United States has tried to take advantage by organizing counterrevoluotinary forces. The truth is that the coast has a very special situation and that is why we have an autonomy process. Therefore, those who are demobilizing should take part in the autonomy process, integrating themselves into the Atlantic coast's peaceful political and productive lifestyle. Thank you very much.

EPS Staff Officer: Troops Reduced 30 Percent

PA2809033689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2356 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 27 Sep (DPA)—A senior Sandinist People's Army [EPS] officer said today in Managua that the EPS has reduced its ranks by 30 percent during the last few months when compared with the peak years of the war between the "contras" and the Army regulars.

Colonel Hugo Torres, member of the EPS General Staff, said that the EPS wants to increase the level of professionalism and reduce the number of men as progress is made toward peace in Nicaragua.

The officer said that the recruitment of youths will be reduced in accordance with the country's stability, but stressed that the EPS will continue to be the guarantor of Nicaragua's defense.

Defense spending has been cut as much as 50 percent during the last few months as a result of the reduction in the activities of the contras in 1989 compared to 1984 and 1985 which were marked by a great counterrevolutionary activity.

The opposition parties are demanding an end to the military service, but the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] claims that this must be done rationally and gradually to the degree that progress is made toward peace in accordance with the Esquipulas agreement. The agreement was signed by the Central American presidents 2 years ago and is being enforced in Nicaragua in various ways.

Bermudez Pledges To Cooperate With UN Observers

PA2809040989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0139 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] United Nations, 27 Sep (EFE)—Contra military chief Colonel Enrique Bermudez said today that the anti-Sandinist rebels will cooperate with the group of UN Observers for Central America (ONUCA).

Bermudez met for the first time with Alvaro de Soto, special representative for Central America to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, to clarify some aspects of ONUCA's verification task, including the personal security of its members.

The rebel chief said that the deadline of 8 December set by the Central American presidents at the "summit" held in Tela (Honduras) in August for the demobilization of his forces is impossible to meet for practical reasons." [quotation mark as received]

He said that the conditions for his men to return to Nicaragua do not exist at the moment and expressed skepticism about Nicaragua's electoral process.

Bermudez contends that the Nicaraguan Government must declare a total amnesty and release 5,000 prisoners. He asserted that if the opposition wins the elections in February, the jails will be emptied of prisoners at first but will be filled again "with those who committed political crimes during the Sandinist era."

Bermudez said that he is ready to return to his country after democracy is restored, but will not engage in political activities because "I am not a politician." He did not rule out the possibility of a home in some other nation.

On the subject of mistakes committed by the Nicaraguan Resistance, the rebel leader said that one of them was the lack of unity among the military and political factions in the opposition and the attempts by the representatives of the various sectors to make their opinions prevail.

Minister Borge Presents FSLN Candidates

PA2609210589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0112 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Speech by Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez presenting Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) presidential and vice presidential candidates during the FSLN convention at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] Comrade of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, chairman of the people's convention; comrades and friends:

If this is not democracy, then what is democracy? [applause] [crowd chants: "Power to the people!"] If this is not true democracy, then what is true democracy?

Yesterday we discussed platforms and candidates for many hours, and it is appropriate to mention the comrade Sandinist assembly members' valor, fraternity, substantial, and accurate contributions, the modesty prevailing among all those who attended the assembly, the acceptance of their responsibilities, and the incredible modesty of some comrades, who today declined their nomination in recognition of other comrades' representativeness.

Everyone has witnessed the delegates' exuberant participation in today's discussions. The discussions have been going on for almost 12 hours and there is not the slightest symptom of fatigue on the faces of all those gathered here. [applause] Democracy does not become tired—meaning the people's democracy, revolutionary democracy.

While witnessing this exceptional demonstration of democracy, I thought: The Nicaraguan people are preparing, within the current historical context, to discuss the groundwork of their future. Nicaragua will build, by 2000, a social structure marked by the definite demolition of the ruins we inherited, the growth of an economy brimming with health, and the achievement of unstoppable development.

During the next few years, we will do what has been precluded by the war. We will wage a social revolution.

We will build channels through which the world's happiness and production will flow. We will build marble beds through which rivers of milk and honey will flow. We will surprise mankind—as mankind is surely being surprised at this very moment—with deep, human, and democratic changes.

We will continue to pray to Jesus Christ and to speak Spanish. We will, I insist, wage a social revolution. We will do this by studying, working, and struggling against backwardness and poverty.

We are going to apply the laws of history and common sense. We are going to attain that using the best human and natural resources, with our own style, being different, but at the same time, better. We are original. We have outlined our own path. The compass that guides us was made with our own mud, roots, and blood.

Without underrating other experiences, we have chosen a unique path, and, because of its creativity and independence, it represents hope to other peoples. How can our people not trust their own guiding light. The FSLN fully trusts the people and the people have absolute trust in the FSLN.

When one looks back on our history, one shivers. We have been offended. We were sold out for a few coins. Blond and inhuman troops desecrated cemeteries and raped women. Since early in this century, the United States designed what our national state had to be like. It placed Nicaragua in a straightjacket and, lacking a bourgeoisie that was economically and morally developed, the empire imposed docile governments and bloody tyranny on us.

Liberal and conservative leaders took turns at having the shameless privilege of exhibiting their submissiveness. Whoever dared brandish banners of dignity, sovereignty, and independence was mercilessly crushed. Nothing could happen beyond the exclusive control of these two parties, and those who dared defy such control were certain to die or wind up in prison.

If we take a look at 19 July 1979 and the time before, we see the blood of thousands—men, women, and children—being spilled. They were sacrificed for the democracy that the Americans prescribed for us.

The soldiers of the Army Defender of the National Sovereignty, the early Sandinist guerrillas, the workers, the students, the mothers, the political prisoners, and the poets were hit by the treason of the two parties in parallel and the machineguns of the Yankees and the national guardsmen.

This was a country of limited horizons. There was never a chance for Liberal and Conservative party members and national guardsmen—now disseminated in little groups—to draft at least a national plan, something that would even resemble a nationalist project.

When [President Jose Santos] Zelaya dared implement some liberal reforms, he was toppled by a single stroke, better known as the Knox note [statement written by Secretary of State Knox in 1909 condemning Zelaya for executing two U.S. citizens and breaking relations with Nicaragua].

One needed to seize power to escape unbearable situations. This is a response that involves the experience and example of popular wars of so many clashes and historic battles. This is the response that the FSLN gave. I repeat Carlos Fonseca's words: We continue the struggle of our forefathers more out of embarassment than out of conscience. In other words, we continue the struggle because of a basic feeling of dignity, principles of ethics and political decency, and even personal decency.

A new morale nurtured our patriotism. We raised Nicaragua's head high and the land that was humiliated by traitors got on its feet forever.

Our historical platform awakens valleys, avenues, and consciences in a molecular process that brought together, one by one, the desires of the nation to be a free and sovereign fatherland. These are desires we have summed up here as wanting a better tomorrow.

The FSLN broke the patterns and chains that tied us to the—until then—unappealable U.S. dictates. After catching our breath, recovering our speech and the use of our hands, and the freedom of the painter's brush, metaphors, and the swing of our hips we began a headlong economic and social takeoff. We recovered our physical wealth, novel and pure morals, and the hope for peace was with us. Enthusiastically, we began the journey toward a new standard of living. The results of our initial efforts were visible and plentiful. At the very moment that the international crisis savagely hammered at our neighbors, at the very moment that Reagan began the policy of violence to recover hegemony over the world, Nicaragua was waging its national crusade against ignorance.

While growth rates were dropping in the Central American economies, they grew in our country. Not only did illiteracy decrease, but the life expectancy of the Nicaraguan people climbed. Child mortality and morbidity decreased noticeably. The number of hospitals, schools, unions, and agricultural projects grew. The delivery of land to the peasants began. As happens when the ghosts and murderers invade a country, the war came and the scarcity, the paralysis of social programs, the sadness of the bugle calls announcing the burials, and the threat of hunger came with it. Nevertheless, the stature of the Nicaraguan revolution clearly grew. Furthermore, amid the aggression that was launched but not declared against us, despite the economic embargo, the sabotage, the crimes, and the internal complicity, pluralism and the mixed economy continue to exist in our country, the FSLN attaining new styles of revolutionary democracy. [applause]

However, there was still more. Substantial and irreversible gains were made in favor of the underprivileged. At long last, they saw the true perspective of a dawn and national

independence. There has been democracy in Nicaragua since 19 July, not only because our political platform says so, but because daily practice says so. Before—and when I say before I refer not only to the Somozist tyranny, but to the long line of stateless and exploiting governments in our history—there was nothing, nothing that could come close to being democracy.

Now, those who represent that past are talking to us about restoring democracy. They refer to the sinister, pharisaic, and gloomy masquerade they prescribed to us in speeches and used to prescribe to us in constitutions. It tumbled to the feet of the human species forever on 19 July.

During that democracy, we the Sandinists, had no right to even a centimeter of political room. Who were we before the people's victory? We, the Sandinists, were a group that was persecuted, cornered, hemmed in by death and lies. By whom? By those who now want to dislodge us from power. Who was broad-minded and tolerant toward the FSLN? How many radio stations, how many newspapers, how many television networks disseminated the Sandinist ideas? To broadcast a brief message by radio, we had to assault a radio station, risking our lives. When we appeared on television, it was to show that we were either dead or in jail. During the time I spent in jail, I would say it was the day they presented me with a television set to show the world I was not isolated. Camilo Ortega died and the mother of that Sandinist hero cried over her son's body.

This is what they used to teach us. This was the opportunity they gave us to appear on television. We were called bandits, just as Sandino was called. Even the most tolerant of the written media—if this can be called tolerant—scornfully labeled us Sandino Communists. By breaking into residences and palaces, we forced liberals, conservatives, and National Guard members to publish our proclamations. Apart from these armed incidents, our messages were music to the people's ears. Their outrages are what they called and still call democracy. These deaf and blind, who cannot see beyond their noses or hear the drums of history, now attempt to lead us to this democracy of graveyards and imprisonment. [applause]

Until 19 July 1979, democracy in Nicaragua consisted of a long, sad chain of crimes and fraud. Although we are a formidable political force, today we partake of political pluralism, of which we were never members in the past. We have taken seven-league steps in the Atlantic coast economy and have shaped municipalities rooted in history, which have now acquired an unheard-of importance. Those who could not live in peace now do. They are free to travel while we could not. They have their own media while we never had any. When the people demanded their heads, when they thought we would wipe them off the earth after the first days of our victory, when we could have paid them back in kind, we remained steadfast to our principles and our determination to create a pluralist society, both politically and economically. This is a commitment we have fulfilled and will continue to fulfill.

It is true we were implacable in combat, but we were generous in victory. We will continue to be implacable in combat and generous in victory. [applause] We could have denied them political room at the most crucial time of the counterrevolutionary war, when we were threatened with U.S. aircraft carriers and airborne divisions and when the people mourned their dead. Faithful to our strategic decisions and commitments, we have complied and will continue to comply. Of course, we do not do this as concessions based on war or foreign pressures, but because we are convinced that in these historical circumstances a closed and monopolizing society is obsolete and unacceptable in the nearly unique conditions of our revolution. Even if we were invaded by U.S. forces and were forced to defend the nation with all our resources, we would still advocate these principles for a single reason, because we the revolutionaries always follow our historic decisions. One of these historic decisions is the defense of our right to have a homeland and not depend politically on any foreign power. Because we are nonaligned, it is said we are satellites of other powers. It is worth reiterating. We obey nothing except our will. This revolutionary leadership listens to advice but makes its own decisions. This is why we are nonaligned. We are not only nonaligned but are closely bound together. It is good to remember that for 10 years some entertained the illusion that the FSLN's unity would disintegrate. Our enemies, with meanness and selfishness, projected their own internal reality. Even in the past few days, they encouraged a rift in the National Directorate by all available means, fabricating feuds, disagreements, and personal ambition. They will never know how far above them we are. [applause]

In long and fraternal discussions of the National Directorate and the Sandinist Assembly, we sounded out the feelings of the rank and file, trying to find out what would be the best presidential ticket for the FSLN.

During these discussions we paid attention to the people's most serious concerns and we analyzed the people's aspirations in this historical stage, and there was never any doubt that the most important goal is to finally achieve peace. The second most important goal is to immediately resume our reconstruction and overcome the economic crisis. It is true that the FSLN, through its government, drafted a successful strategy that has led us to the threshold of a definitive peace and thus closer to a solution to the economic crisis. Even our enemies felt compelled to admit this.

Peace is a premise for abundance. Peace is a first step to the abundance of food, health, education, and cultural splendor. Peace is within reach. All Nicaraguan families will take enjoyment from our commitment: peace. This has been made possible through the people's combined

action in production and defense tasks and the revolutionary government's bold and clever diplomacy. Peace was made possible because youths postponed their right to be happy and exchanged it for the joy to fight and defend the fatherland and the revolutionary power. They postponed this right in order to enjoy a future happiness that will not be taken away.

Brothers, we have a right to peace. We won the war on the battlefield and in the political arena. An effort was made to defeat us through hunger, but the material difficulties that affected workers most of all strengthened our revolutionary convictions and our trust in a better tomorrow.

Without playing with marked cards, we promised to hold an electoral process under the eyes of all human beings, even those who are praying to the devil for our defeat.

We have arrived at this electoral stage in which we have to appoint those who will represent us. We have to choose the FSLN candidates. Much has been discussed. We have discussed the role of the person [words indistinct]. There are some who completely reject the role of a single individual, but there are some who will support it at any price.

We know that substantial changes in a society are not possible without the participation of the masses. We know that under Nicaragua's specific conditions it has worked, and it has worked with the wisdom of a directorate. However, we do not deny—our experience and that of others prove it—the role of men.

Therefore, we must ask: Who has been the main spokesman, the respected and loyal voice of Nicaragua? Who, representing the people and the revolution, masterfully handled national and international negotiations? Who? Who has faced the crisis, an offspring of aggression and backwardness and the legacy of an obsolete and almost impossible economy, a destroyed economy? Who, I ask, transmitted our confidence to the people to defeat hurricanes and contras that devastated our land? Who, without showing any weariness, toured the entire world, defending our point of view? Who visited every corner of our nation, facing the people and listening, with endless patience, to complaints, demands, and criticism? Who? [Crowd shouts: "Daniel!"] [prolonged applause; music heard in background while announcer describes reaction]

That is why we will all vote for him. That is why I, we, and all the people will vote for Daniel. [prolonged applause; 30-second pause in speech while announcer describes reaction]

Daniel is accompanied on this historic ticket by a brilliant man, an untiring worker, a man whose talent is known all over the world, a man who is famous as a ruler and a writer, a reliable, disciplined, and competent comrade whom we trust completely.

In the name of the FSLN National Directorate, the Sandinist Assembly, and the FSLN, I officially propose to this people's convention the candidacies of Comrades Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Sergio Ramirez Mercado. [prolonged applause]

Panama

Columnist Says Kam To Be New Foreign Minister

PA2709155489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p 8

[From the "Today in the World Column" by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] The appointments of Leonardo Kam, current ambassador to the United Nations, as foreign relations minister, and Aquilino Boyd as ambassador, chief of mission to the United Nations, will be revealed within the next few hours. Boyd has been very successful in his past assignments as envoy to the United Nations.

Rodriguez' Schedule at UN Session Reported

PA2709171689 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Panamanian President Francisco Rodriguez will speak at the 44th UN General Assembly's plenary session on 3 October.

The official delegation that will accompany the president to this important international forum includes: Foreign Minister Eduardo Ritter [as published]; Gustavo Gonzalez, planning and economic policy minister; Dr Adolfo Ahumada [former canal treaties negotiator and labor minister]; Hernando Franco Munoz, director general of international organizations, conferences, and treaties; Foreign Ministry General Secretary Norberta A. Tejada Cano; and Fernan Molinos D. [not further identified].

The Panamanian president will attend a special meeting of the Latin American Regional Group (GRULAC) on the afternoon of 2 October. He will also meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and UN General Assembly President General Joseph N. Garba, permanent Nigerian representative to the United Nations.

President Rodriguez' trip to the United Nations will be his first trip abroad and his participation at the UN General Assembly session will take place 33 days after he took the oath as Panama's provisional president.

Noriega Meets With Haitian Labor Leaders

PA2709183789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Sep 89 p 20

[Text] Haitian labor leaders yesterday met with General Manuel Antonio Noriega to reiterate the Haitian workers solidarity with the Panamanian people's just struggle. Cameau Idley, Lexuistec Cajuste, Pauleus

Lutovi, and Gotha Hubbert, gave Gen Noriega a machete—a symbol of the industriousness of the Haitian workers—and a book by Professor Roger Gaillard on the Benoit Bratoville guerrilla movement.

Printing House Owner, Employees Arrested

PA2709193389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1817 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 27 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian police today arrrested seven employees of a printing house used by the opposition and raided the installations of an advertising agency linked to the opposition.

Opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon today reported that the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] arrested Deniese de Pena, owner of Sigma printing house. Printing house workers Davis Alengor, Emma Gutzmer, Teodoro Gonzalez, Carlos Romero, Gabriel Rodriguez, and Concepcion Solanilla were also arrested.

Another opposition spokesman today reported that the FDP raided Cosmo Publicity Agency, which was involved with the opposition's election campaign.

An FDP spokesman contacted by ACAN-EFE denied that the police made the arrests or raided an advertising agency.

The seven arrests and the raid on the advertising company have taken place at the same time opposition leader Guillermo Endara is on a hunger strike. Endara began the 7th day of the hunger strike today.

Endara's initiative seeks to strengthen support for an opposition campaign called "Not One More Penny for the Dictatorship," through which the opposition is urging citizens not to pay taxes, not to buy government lottery tickets, and to delay the payment of electricity, water, and telephone bills.

Endara's hunger strike, which has been ridiculed by the regime media, has been publicized by the opposition by means of thousands of leaflets urging citizens to intensify the economic blockade on the regime.

Endara today received moral support from approximately 50 University of Panama students, who gathered this morning in front of the windows of the office where the opposition leader is carrying out his hunger strike.

TV Station Reports U.S. Army Maneuvers

PA2809004589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] This morning, U.S. troops in Panama once again engaged in acts of provocation which violate the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. The U.S. soldiers' actions were filmed by international newsmen in Panama. Here is a report by journalist Nelson Notario Castro [Radio Havana corrrespondent] on this incident.

[Notario] We are just a few meters away from the Panama Canal, an important waterway, and what we are about to see does not mean the United States has declared war on Panama, this small isthmian nation: This is just another harassing action by U.S. troops stationed in the canal area.

If this were a science fiction film, perhaps this military deployment of men and modern weapons, armored vehicles, machineguns, cannons, and the setting up of communications teams and equipment would be justified. However, this is not fiction, it is not a fiction film in which the director is trying to capture the soul of absurdity. This is a real event, with no backdrop or scenary provided. It is not absurdity on the screen, nor science fiction about the life of a military leader who mobilizes an army so they can do their aerobic excercises.

This following is, I repeat, a fact. We were told, and very seriously, by a U.S. Army Press and Public Relations officer that some 20 men jogging at daybreak had three times that number of men armed to the teeth to protect them.

A few minutes before, the foreign cameramen and crews had been ordered to move a few meters away from the place were we were reporting.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified U.S. Army soldier speaking in Spanish] These are green areas.

[Unidentified speaker] Here in the street?

[U.S. soldier] The street is a white area, this area is a green area. [end recording]

[Notario] This was the categorical order we were given. Nevertheless, the Yankee soldiers were in the white area merrily violating the Panamanian territory by deploying military equipment without previous coordination, in an arrogant manner. In the reverted areas, the landscape and even the street signs accuse the aggressor forces. One of the sign says: Military uniforms cannot be worn in these areas. The U.S. soldiers are not only wearing uniforms, but also carrying machineguns and they have cannons.

Later on, the U.S. soldiers traveled through Panamanian streets at high speeds, in areas reverted to Panama. There is another board with a message which the soldiers do not understand. Later, citizens, taxis, and school buses are in the streets and the Yankees are endangering the lives of many innocent people. The threats of military aggression against Panama are a reality.

We interviewed FDP [Panamanian Defense ForcesS] Captain Severino Mejia, director of the Panama Treaty Affairs Executive Directorate, DEPAT.

[Notario] How do you term this morning's actions?

[Mejia] I have repeatedly said these actions by the U.S. Army South are acts of provocation against civilians, and, in this case, in particular against our FDP here at

Amador Fort. As you were able to see, several armored vehicles were deployed not for the purpose of conducting joint actions for the defense of the canal, but rather to protect a group of soldiers doing physical training. They themselves are violating the principle of economy of forces by using a large number of armored vehicles to protect 25 or 30 soldiers engaged in physical training.

[Notario] Some U.S. soldiers questioned that we, newsmen, were in the green area, in other words, in the green area where the U.S. soldiers were conducting the military exercise. Nevertheless, they were conducting a military exercise in an area under Panama's jurisdiction. Did you witness that?

[Text] [Mejia] That is correct. The fact that the U.S. soldiers asked you to move your camera equipment to the white area because you were in the green area was very funny, I saw them. This is interesting. Why did they make no mention of the fact that they were conducting their exercise in white areas without the required consultation with the joint committee? In order to deploy troops in the Amador causeway, it is necessary to be in agreement with the joint committee because that is a white area. Although the U.S. Army has special installations at Naos Islands, it has to coordinate with the joint committee when it wants to deploy troops in this area. They cannot just do this because they want to do it. This time they have the power to do it. However, this is a violation of the treaties.

[Notario] Captain, do the FDP know whether the rifles, machineguns, or cannons of these U.S. soldiers are loaded?

[Mejia] I would not be surprised if they are because the United States has always considered staging an armed intervention in our country. I am sure their arms are loaded.

[Notario] Could one of these intimidating actions become a true attack one of these days?

[Mejia] The FDP have been obeying its leaders' instructions to remain calm. We have not fallen for their tricks. The FDP will not fire the first shot. If an attack occurs, they will be the ones to start it and possibly under the influence of drugs.

Health Officials Report on Increase in AIDS

PA2709223989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Summary] Health Minister Jose Renan Esquivel has said that if the current rate of growth of AIDS cases continues, it could wipe out the population.

Esquivel said: "At present we have to face problems like AIDS that are governed by very special circumstances. We should all be aware of what AIDS means throughout the world, and Panama is no exception. It is connected to human conditions like sexual relations and day-to-day living. In this day and age, some things have improved while others have worsened. Young people should be well informed about what they are exposed to. We are struggling to conserve lives. Our lives are full of risks. Young people are more exposed. There are studies being conducted to treat AIDS, but there is no easy cure yet. What little medicine there is is very expensive, and research is very expensive."

Meanwhile, Guillermo Campos, director of epidemiology in the Health Ministry, said that "the first case of AIDS occurred in Panama in 1984. From then until June 1989 there have been 145 cases reported. The increase in AIDS cases is alarming, because we believe the trend will continue. Of the cases we have had so far, 85 percent were male and 15 percent female. For every six men with AIDS now, there is one woman who has the disease. However, the ratio was previously much higher because there were few female cases."

He said that statistics show Panama to be among the 15 worst countries in the world, as regards AIDS. He said that "of the 145 cases we have had, 86 have died and the others will ultimately die. The most affected group is between 20 and 44 years of age."

Health Director Jorge Luis Prosperi said that "the AIDS problem is very serious. Just imagine that here in the capital city there might be about 10,000 people infected by the AIDS virus. These people are not homosexuals; they are not drug addicts. These are people who simply had the bad luck to become infected after having had sexual relations with carriers, and then they become carriers who can infect someone else. This is a national tragedy."

He also said, "In the past 4 or 5 years we have spent about $750,000 in prevention and community education, and this is not very much. Material is very expensive, and about all we can do besides educating the people is detecting cases. This is very expensive, but we continue to do it."

Argentina

President Menem Visits Washington 27 Sep

Meeting With Bush 'Excellent'

PY2709152389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1720 GMT 27 Sep 89

[By special correspondent Luis Mendoza]

[Text] Washington, 27 Sep (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem today announced that Argentina has signed an agreement with the IMF to free a $1.5-billion stand by [preceding two words in English] loan.

Menem made the announcement from the White House after a meeting with President George Bush from 1152 to 1230.

Menem characterized the meeting as "excellent," adding that the two presidents talked about the Malvinas Islands, the foreign debt, Menem's peace initiative in the Middle East, drug trafficking, terrorism, and bilateral relations.

Menem said that Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli will officially announce the details of the agreement with the IMF tomorrow.

The economy minister told reporters that Argentina has signed an agreement to liberate a $1.5 billion stand by loan. The loan will be disbursed in successive stages.

Argentina will receive $300 million in the first stage. The rest will be disbursed in subsequent stages.

At the end of the meeting Menem boarded his limousine and drove to the National Press Club for lunch.

This afternoon Menem will give a speech at the Organization of American States. Then the president will talk with reporters.

Further on Menem, Bush Talks

PY2809015889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2312 GMT 27 Sep 89

[By Luis Mendoza]

[Excerpts] Washington, 27 Sep (TELAM)—The United States promised to cooperate with Argentina to overcome its economic problems and to aid "in some way" the reestablishment of relations with Great Britain. The U.S. Government also expressed confidence in the steps being taken by the Carlos Menem administration.

Today Presidents George Bush and Carlos Menem held a meeting in the White House from 1152 to 1230 on issues related to the foreign debt, the Malvinas Islands, the situation in the Middle East, drug trafficking, terrorism, the need to strengthen rapprochement in the Americas, and bilateral matters.

The meeting, which is the first between a Peronist president and a U.S. president, was Menem's main activity during his U.S. visit.

Menem arrived at the White House at 1128 in a limousine flying the flags of the two countries. Menem came with Guido Di Tella, Argentine ambassador in Washington.

After a brief talk the two presidents went to the Rose Garden to have their pictures taken. Over 50 reporters from Argentina, the United States, and other countries covered the presidential meeting.

Menem smiling talked to reporters saying: "I was telling President Bush that in Argentina on a beautiful day like this we say that it is a Peronist day." He said this in reference to the beautiful day in this capital today with a temperature of about 20 degrees centigrade with sunny clear skies. [passage omitted]

President Bush then invited Menem to take a walk around the White House garden. Local reporters said that the walk was unusual and that such a stroll has rarely occurred.

The two presidents returned from the brief talk at 1150, and then they entered the hall where the meeting was held.

At the conclusion of the meeting Menem talked to the press. He said that the meeting was "excellent, pragmatic, and very cordial."

Menem added that the talk had an open agenda and that the specific issues discussed were the Malvinas Islands and the relations with Great Britain. He also said that Bush commented that "we are on the right path" and that the U.S. Government is going to contribute to the reestablishment of relations with Great Britain which were broken during the armed conflict in 1982. [passage omitted]

Menem also said that the Middle East issue was discussed. In this regard he said that Bush received the peace initiative proposed by Argentina "with great pleasure." Menem said that early next year he would visit several Arab countries and Israel to continue talks on this issue.

Menem said that quite possibly he would meet again with Bush in October in Costa Rica or when he returns to the United States late this month heading the Argentine delegation which will study in detail the current oil plan in Houston.

Regarding the foreign debt, Menem said that he conveyed to President Bush the Argentine desire to receive "better treatment than Mexico."

Menem described Bush as "a straightforward and cordial man." He said that Bush was interested in finding out about the Pampa airplane made in Argentina. Menem said: "He asked me if it is a good airplane, and I told him

what a good airplane it is, and that I flew it and did not crash. It is a good deal if the U.S. Government decides to buy it."

Menem then went to the National Press Club where he answered questions from the members of this excellent U.S. organization. [passage omitted]

In response to one question, he said that Argentina wants to maintain its sovereign rights over a sector of Antarctica, adding that this issue depends on international treaties that will expire in 1990.

In the afternoon, Menem held a formal meeting with the OAS Council during which he delivered a speech calling for continental unity.

He then met with AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, and in the evening he had dinner with Inter-American Development Bank President Enrique Iglesias. Previously, he met with the bankers attending the annual IMF meeting.

In his first activity in Washington this morning, Menem met with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher, with whom he discussed the possibility of promoting bilateral exchange. The meeting was held at the Argentine ambassador's residence in Washington.

The president also met William Bennett, director of the national office for drug control policy, with whom he discussed Argentina's antidrug efforts and the international cooperation that Argentina has extended to the fight against drug trafficking.

Menem then met with U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and David Mulford, U.S. assistant secretary of state for international affairs, with whom he addressed issues linked with the foreign debt and with the possibilities for U.S. cooperation in changing the terms of the negotiations with creditor banks.

President Menem will return to New York the evening of 28 September and return to Argentine the following day. Tomorrow he has a busy agenda beginning with a morning meeting with WASHINGTON POST journalists. [passage omitted]

Talks on Relations With UK Under Way

Menem-Thatcher Meeting Clarified

PY2709232089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2246 GMT 27 Sep 89

[By special correspondent Luis Mendoza]

[Text] Washington, 27 Sep (TELAM)—Argentine Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli has stressed that President Carlos Menem did not propose a meeting in London or Buenos Aires to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in order to advance the resumption of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

Thus, the minister denied an international press agency report that attributed this statement to Menem through a member of the Jewish Community in the United States, who yesterday in New York participated in a meeting with the chief of state.

Rapanelli, who also participated in the meeting, explained that one of the participants put this question to Menem, who expressed his willingness "to hold a meeting of this type without any indication that it would take place in the medium term."

The minister added that President Menem "has a very open attitude, he is a person who likes dialogue, and he certainly would not avoid a meeting of this type."

Rapanelli's clarification was made here, while the meeting between Argentina's Domingo Cavallo and Great Britain's John Major was taking place. This meeting is considered a prelude to the official talks that will be held in Madrid in October 1989.

Cavallo, UK's Major Meet

PY2809010889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2345 GMT 27 Sep 89

[By a special NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS correspondent]

[Text] United Nations, 27 Sep (NA)—At the United Nations today Argentina's Domingo Cavallo and Great Britain's John Major held the first ministerial-level dialogue since the South Atlantic war. During the meeting they evaluated the process that will normalize diplomatic relations.

According to the Argentine delegation, the meeting was held at UN headquarters "in order to obtain personal knowledge that would set deadlines to make progress in the future on concrete topics" that will be discussed in the upcoming Madrid meeting.

In remarks to the press, Cavallo stated: "We have achieved the objective of getting to know each other, because this could be very useful in the negotiation process."

The Madrid meeting scheduled for 17 and 18 October could set the bases for formal negotiations that will lead to a normalization of relations between Argentina and Great Britain.

The Argentine delegation to Madrid will be headed by Lucio Garcia del Solar, while the British delegation will be headed by Sir Crispin Tickell, the British ambassador to the United Nations.

Cavallo said that during today's meeting with his British colleague "the problem of sovereignty was not discussed," and he streesed that "the meeting was made possible due to the fact that the two countries agree to the formula of 'putting sovereignty under an umbrella' that will permit the discussion of other bilateral problems."

Cavallo traveled from Washington to New York this afternoon. Prior to his meeting with Major, Cavallo met with the foreign ministers of the Group of Eight and with members of the European Community (the Group of 12) to evaluate mutual relations.

PRC Trade Delegation Arrives 27 Sep

PY2709220689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1554 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Sep (TELAM)—A PRC trade delegation arrived here today to study possibilities for investing in several sectors of our country. The delegation will also meet President Carlos Menem.

The delegation, which is led by businessman Li Xing, includes 14 members who belong to the Chinese-Canadian Geni Company. After meeting with Menem they will leave for specific zones of the interior of the country to sound out prospects for future economic projects.

Chief Justice Resigns; Replacement Selected

PY2709172689 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Sep 89 p 1

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) Supreme Court Chief Justice Jose Severo Caballero yesterday resigned "due to differences within the tribunal" and was replaced by Enrique Petracchi.

The latter informed reporters that he would head the Supreme Court for three years, regardless of whether or not the Supreme Court is expanded.

The differences to which Caballero referred concerned the government's bill to increase the number of Supreme Court justices from five to nine, which is to be debated by the Senate today. Caballero's decision to step down was only opposed by Justice Carlos Fayt. [passage omitted]

New Health Minister Takes Oath of Office

PY2709132689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1837 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Sep (TELAM)—Vice President Eduardo Duhalde, who is currently in charge of the executive branch, has administered the oath of office to Antonio Erman Gonzalez, the new minister of public health and social action.

The ceremony was held this afternoon in the White Room of government house and was attended by ministers, secretaries, Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero, labor leaders, and many others.

Police Seize Weapons in Buenos Aires

PY2709184589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0052 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Sep (TELAM)—The federal police tonight found 200 assorted firearms and 9,000 rounds of ammunition in an apartment in the Parque Centenario neighborhood in this capital. They also arrested a couple who lived there.

Officer Hector Luis Guerrero of the Federal Crime Department announced that the arsenal was found on the second floor of the building located at 4724 Estado de Israel Street, and that the detainees have been the subject of a long investigation "because of their involvement in arms smuggling."

Guerrero said that this case is being heard by a criminal judge who specializes in financial crimes and that the apartment that was raided "is small and dilapidated."

Guerrero concluded by saying that the two detainees claim to be "arms collectors," however, he confirmed that they had documents for only a small part of the materiel.

Bolivia

Coca Producers To Demand Higher Compensation

PY2809034589 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 25 Sep 89 p 4

[From the Fides News Agency]

[Text] At the end of the current COB [Bolivian Labor Confederation] congress, coca producers from all over the country will formally ask the government to meet several demands that were approved by the last peasant congress. One of the demands consists of an increase in the compensation for each hectare of coca plantation eradicated.

Deputy Miguel Urioste, who attended the last peasant congress in Tarija, said that coca producers approved several demands that they will present to the government in October.

In addition to a request for an increase of the current $2,000-compensation paid for each hectare of coca plantation eradicated, coca producers will demand that DEA agents leave Chapare and the Yungas. They will also reject any attempt to let foreign troops enter Bolivian territory to fight drug trafficking.

The leaders of the coca producers will also demand strict compliance with the regulations of the Coca Crop Substitution and Development Plan (PIDYS), which provides for the participation of coca producers on the PIDYS executive board. The plan also provides financial resources for the replacement programs.

It has been unofficially reported that coca producers will ask for $20,000 for each hectare of eradicated coca plantation. Administration officials have said that the government is unable to meet this financial demand.

La Paz, Spain Sign Cooperation Agreement

PY2809032089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Excerpt] A technical-economic cooperation agreement was signed today between La Paz municipality and the Spanish Government to solve the problem of housing projects in the La Paz area.

Regarding this agreement, Spanish Ambassador to Bolivia Fausto Navarro has said that his country is very interested in cooperating with La Paz municipality in projects that the municipality is implementing to benefit the city. [passage omitted]

Brazil

President Sarney Concludes Visit to U.S.

Undergoes Biopsy

PY2809010989 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Excerpts] President Jose Sarney today left New York and went to Chicago to visit the Fermi nuclear laboratory, which is carrying out the world's most advanced research in the field of high-energy physics. This is the first time that the laboratory has been visited by a chief of state. President Sarney explained why he came to Chicago:

[Begin Sarney recording] I believe that the research being undertaken at this center has nothing to do with the production of nuclear bombs. I believe the whole world is interested in this type of research.

We Brazilians are proud to participate in this effort, which seeks to trace the origin of the universe, the smallest particle that gave birth to the universe. It is fantastic research. We should be pleased to see that Brazilian citizens are working in this research on an equal standing, in highly qualified positions. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Nuclear physics, however, was not the only major issue today. There was a small black spot on President Sarney's nose. It has been reported that two New York doctors last night went to the president's hotel and removed a small piece of skin from his nose to search for cancerous tissue. The initial result of the biopsy was negative.

Speaking in Chicago, President Sarney denied that he was planning to step down before 15 March 1990. He said that he will exercise his powers and discharge his presidential duties until the last day of his term, as set forth in the Constitution.

Returns to Brasilia

PY2809125089 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The plane carrying President Sarney back from the United States has just landed at the Brasilia Air Force Base. Sarney has thus ended his 4-day visit to the United States.

During the last leg of his trip Sarney went to Chicago to visit the Fermi nuclear laboratory, the largest nuclear research center in the world. Sarney said that the country should be pleased to see so many Brazilians working efficiently and on an equal standing with other scientists. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Criticizes IMF Policy

PY2709012689 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has criticized the IMF policy toward debtor countries. In a speech that he delivered a few minutes ago at the opening of the IMF annual assembly in Washington, Nobrega advocated a long-term solution to the foreign debt. The minister pointed out that the preservation of the environment, which rich countries have demanded, is a priority objective for Brazil. He noted though, that the preservation of the environment is expensive and that Brazil needs money. [passage omitted]

Sao Paulo Businessmen Hail Bush Debt Stance

PY2809003089 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] A proposal formulated by President George Bush has elicited positive reactions in Sao Paulo.

Businessmen have welcomed a U.S. Government decision to adopt a new stand on the foreign debt. This decision has just been reported by JORNAL NACIONAL.

They stressed that the U.S. Government has finally adopted a realistic position, because the debt of Third World countries, among them Brazil, is too heavy to be dealt with only by bankers. As of now, the issue will be subject to government decisions. No solution will be possible unless it is based on a political decision. This is what debtor countries have been saying for over 7 years.

There has been a complete reversal of positions in connection with the foreign debt. This is not U.S. demagogy. The U.S. Government has just found out that creditors and debtors are in the same boat. If it sinks, no one will survive. The boat has already begun to sink under the interest burden.

Colombia

President Addresses Nation on Drug War, M-19

PA2709035389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0259 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Address to the nation by President Virgilio Barco Vargas in Bogota—live]

[Text] Compatriots, tonight I will refer to the positive results of the struggle against narcoterrorism and the great step taken toward peace with the M-19 [19 April Movement]. Colombia is experiencing a time of suspense. The entire nation has been challenged by an international organization devoted to the evil traffic in cocaine. That organization has two clear objectives. First, it seeks to terrorize the people and create an environment of unrest so that the country will deviate from its path, so that intimidated people will fail to do their duty, and so that the nation will yield to its pressure. That criminal organization also seeks to destroy what Colombians cherish most: their democracy, forged with effort, sacrifice, and dedication over more than 150 years, and which today is admired by the entire world.

The narcoterrorists do not respect the sacred right to life. They have threatened the press, and they have trampled on the law. They seek, through the use of violence and dirty money, to get what they want to protect their criminal business.

The Armed Forces and the security organizations have initiated a total offensive against narcoterrorism. The government's decision to adopt drastic measures and carry out effective actions against these criminals is supported by the overwhelming majority of Colombians and by the political and social forces, and it has received enormous international solidarity that is without precedence in our country's history.

The results of this offensive against narcoterrorism have been positive, better than many could have hoped. Let us carefully examine each of the achievements.

First, little by little, a cordon has been drawn around the drug kingpins. More than patience, I request active collaboration with the authorities, so that the authorities may know where these drug lords are hiding. I hope that they will soon be captured.

Second, the actions of the public forces have dismantled the criminal organizations which serve narcoterrorism. The authorities have confiscated a large portion of the money and properties that served as the bases or the refuge of the criminals. One thousand fifty-six properties have been confiscated. The headquarters of a company that served as the operations center of one of the main drug kingpins was raided. Important evidence against him and his accomplices was found there. In addition, the vehicles that were used to transport cocaine and carry out their activities have been seized. Contact between the drug lords, their middlemen, and the common criminals of the organization has been broken. To achieve this, 2,147 raids have been staged; over 10,800 people have been arrested; and arrest warrants have been issued against all those who were linked to the organization—535 to date.

Some of the arrested persons are extraditable. The people have risen up against terrorism, and the terrorists cannot hide forever.

Third, much international support for Colombia, its democracy, its people, and its government has been mobilized. Colombia is no longer seen as a country of drug traffickers, something it has never been and never will be.

Now everyone understands that we are a country of brave people where the majority are honest and hard-working. The world has acknowledged and praised democracy in Colombia, the victim of a problem it has not created.

Fourth, investigations into the crimes committed by narcoterrorists continue giving positive results. More than 25 bands of assassins have been dismantled, and their members have been dispersed. Two of the people who participated in the assassination of Luis Carlos Galan have confessed to the crime. The Department of Administrative Security has identified 110 persons who form part of a narcoterrorist network. The most important assassinations have been solved.

Fifth, the authorities have been able to check the terrorists' counteroffensive, although it cannot be denied that the criminals are still capable of causing much damage. This has been made evident by the explosives they have placed, the people who have died and who have been injured, and the fires they have produced.

The authorities have been able to frustrate many attacks. Criminals who have carried out attacks have been captured. For example, in Medellin, 35 criminals who were coordinating with the terrorist National Liberation Army have been captured.

Sixth, drug-trafficking capabilities have decreased. Now there is much less cocaine in the United States and in other world markets. It is important to emphasize the fact that it is up to the United States and the European countries to increase their activities to diminish and control drug consumption. If there were no addicts in those countries, there would be no drug trafficking.

This is not the only responsibility of the other countries involved in the war against drug trafficking. If drug traffickers were unable to use their money through international banks and investment opportunities that other countries offer, the incentives for the business would vanish.

If the chemical products that are necessary to process cocaine did not arrive in our country from Europe and the United States, the drug could not be produced.

If the international arms market were under control, the terrorists would not have been able to get the arms they have used to spill so much blood in Colombia.

The infamous activity of the mercenaries must also be penalized and controlled. In Colombia it has not only been condemned, it was declared a crime in the decree on the state of siege that was enacted over a year ago. Based on this decree, a judge of public order has issued an arrest warrant against two Israeli citizens.

The main objective of the trip I will begin tomorrow will be to explain to the entire world what I am telling you now. I will tell the representatives of close to 160 countries about the great sacrifices and efforts we Colombians are bravely making and about our many accomplishments. I will make it clear that the Colombian Government is prepared to do anything necessary to defend democracy and to restore the rule of law.

We must make it quite clear that international collaboration is indispensable to keeping drugs from continuing to poison millions of young people. The question is not simply to send assistance to Colombia—which we need and for which we are thankful. It is fundamental that each country adopt at least the essential measures to reduce the use of drugs, to prevent the laundering of drug money, and to control the smuggling of weapons and the chemicals required to process cocaine.

I will propose these and other measures at the UN General Assembly, the most important and largest world forum, which was created at the end of World War II. This meeting will be attended by representatives of countries from all continents who are tasked with studying and finding solutions to the most pressing problems, drug trafficking included.

Before I return, I will meet with several personalities, including U.S. President George Bush, who recently proposed a plan against drugs. He made encouraging statements about the future of the international coffee agreement and trade relations with Colombia. President Bush, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, French President Francois Mitterrand, FRG Prime Minister Helmut Kohl, and Argentine President Carlos Menem have moved rapidly to give practical assistance to Colombia. On behalf of the Colombian people, I reiterate to them our feelings of gratitude.

I am happy that today the British prime minister approved a set of measures to give concrete and very useful assistance to Colombia. These were the results of the talks that were held with the members of a British delegation that came to Colombia to discuss our needs with our authorities. I am certain that other European countries will soon agree to provide more specific support.

Violence caused by drug trafficking is not the only violence which affects Colombia. Throughout the decades subversive groups have rebelled against legally appointed authorities. Many governments have tried to solve the problem. The new, serious, and coherent reconciliation strategy adopted by this administration since I was sworn in as president has allowed Colombia to take an important step toward peace today. The series of talks carried out between the government and the M-19 have achieved significant progress in the peace process. Since January 1989 the M-19 has proved, with hard evidence, that it is willing to achieve a reconciliation. Therefore, the government established a direct dialogue with the M-19 leaders to create the appropriate atmosphere for a reconciliation.

Later, the M-19 forces were mobilized and relocated to Santo Domingo, a place previously agreed upon with government representatives. A work table and other schedules for analysis and agreement were later created so spokesmen from all the parties and several social groups could exchange views with the government and M-19 delegates on topics of national interest. Many proposals were presented on old national issues. The proposals later became part of the government program and the political parties' platforms. These proposals seek to broaden our democracy, strengthen the management of justice, defend human rights, and achieve social justice.

Another historical step has been taken today so that the M-19 may lay down its weapons and join civilian life, in accordance with the guidelines established in the peace initiative which I explained in a televised address to the Colombian people on 1 September 1988. The M-19 has pledged to follow a precise demobilization plan that must lead to its definite incorporation into civilian life. It will later be reorganized as a political movement that respects the civilized laws of democracy. The M-19 will turn over its weapons to an international commission. Only then will they be pardoned.

Next week the government will submit the amnesty bill, which is ready now, to Congress. In addition, the government will prepare the program so the M-19 members may join the various activities of production. This program will be enforced after they put down their weapons. A security and protection plan is being prepared and a normalization council will be created, as foreseen in the government's peace initiative. The government will simultaneously present to the work table, which I previously mentioned, the specific topics agreed upon today with the M-19.

The approval of constitutional reform and the referendum is essential to guaranteeing the success of the reconciliation process with M-19, as well as with other rebel groups.

I urge the parties and Congress to approve the initiatives I have mentioned. It is a matter of confirming the consensus we have already reached. I also invite the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, and other armed groups to join the peace initiative presented by the government. The doors will remain open as long as the conditions established in this peace initiative are met. The

results we obtained today with M-19 are undoubtedly a significant step forward toward a solid and lasting peace. This shows that the skepticism and pessimism expressed by many are not in line with reality. This also proves that we should not lose our high spirits because of what defeatists say. I am convinced that we can achieve a lot if we work seriously and with clear goals.

Compatriots, the results of the struggle against narcoterrorism have been better than what many predicted. Now, more than ever, we must unselfishly join efforts, putting aside minor disputes. The government maintains its firm and unyielding will to do everything that is necessary to defend democracy. The great step toward peace taken with M-19 raises our hopes. It shows that the country continues—despite difficulties—along a definite path of reconciliation and progress. Let us continue working united for Colombia with firmness, realism, faith, and decision. Good evening.

Barco To Leave for Washington, UN Meeting

PA2709150789 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—President Virgilio Barco, accompanied by a small entourage, will leave the country to go to Washington this afternoon. Barco is to meet with U.S. President George Bush on 28 September to discuss topics such as the coffee situation, trade, the struggle against terrorism, the foreign debt, regional conflicts, and the Latin American economic and social situation. After that meeting, the Colombian president will go to New York to participate in the UN General Assembly and to give a speech highlighting the struggle against terrorism to the UN delegates on the afternoon of 29 September. President Barco is to meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and high-ranking U.S. Government officials. Government Minister Orlando Vasquez Velasquez will be acting president during Barco's absence.

UK Official Meets Londono at UN, Offers Aid

PA2809025889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] The British authorities have given details of the technical and logistical aid they will be giving our country. British Foreign Secretary John Majors met with his Colombian colleague Julio Londono Paredes at the UN General Assembly in New York and said that the extradition treaty in force with Great Britain may be invoked in the case of the British mercenaries who trained the death squads.

Majors confirmed to our government the offer of technical assistance, equipment, and training that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had already made. Part of the equipment will be delivered immediately, while the remaining equipment and the training teams will arrive in the next few months. According to the British, the aid package was carefully selected taking into account Colombian needs and also bearing in mind the materiel already donated by the United States. The British donation includes jam-free communication equipment to aid the authorities in protecting officials, protective clothing, and non-lethal technical equipment.

The UK will also give technical assistance, training, and equipment to the Judicial Police. The training of personnel will cover all anti-drug agencies in all areas. In addition, Royal Navy ships will help our country patrol the seas. A frigate will soon arrive in Colombian waters.

Meanwhile, a 30-kg dynamite-gel bomb, ready to be set off, was found by authorities in a room at the (Residencias Rosandi) Hotel in the Cartagena neighborhood of Bocagrande. Bombs in Cartagena not only leave debris but they also change the city's rhythm, which has not been the same since the terrorist violence first began. With the wave of violence sweeping the country, Cartagena, which has no active role in the war, started to lose ground. Tourism, the fundamental base for Cartagena's economy, slowly began to decrease following the alarmist news spread abroad.

Cruise ship arrivals were suspended, charter flights from Canada were cancelled, and losses in the tourist sector began to be counted in the millions of dollars. Now the situation is worse with the explosion of a bomb at the Cartagena Hilton Hotel.

Cartagena has suffered a hard blow. Numerous events and conventions have been canceled, the hotels are empty, and the shops are without customers. Cartagena cannot survive this solitude, but it tries to overcome it. It is trying to show Colombia and the world that it might be a weak city resisting attacks, but it is also strong enough to overcome them and move ahead.

Letter Sent to U.S. Embassy on 'Blacklist'

PA2709222789 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Sep 89 pp 1-A, 6-A

[Text] The Colombian Government has officially asked the U.S. Government, through its embassy in Bogota, for an explanation into the reasons that led to the cancelling of U.S. visas to 20 Colombian congressmen.

Foreign Affairs Minister Julio Londono Paredes has asked the U.S. Government, through its charge d'affaires, Philip McLean, at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, to confirm the existence of a blacklist of Colombian congressmen whose U.S. visas have been canceled.

The request was made in a letter dated 21 September which was disclosed on 22 September by the Foreign Ministry Press Office.

On 20 September a list of 20 Colombian congressmen whose visas were canceled by the U.S. Government was made public. Included on the list was Liberal Party, PL presidential hopeful Alberto Santofimio Botero and Antioquia political leader Bernardo Guerra Serna.

Londono Paredes held a private meeting with Santofimio Botero and Guerra Serna on 21 September.

During that meeting, the PL politicians asked the foreign affairs minister to officially ask the U.S. Embassy for the reasons behind the list.

The foreign affairs minister acceded to the request. In the letter sent to McLean, Londono Paredes asked to be informed, "as soon as possible, if this report is true, and if it is true, the reasons why the U.S. Government made this decision even though the persons involved are congressmen."

Londono added that the Colombian Government believes that reports "of this type without a full and proper explanation by the U.S. Government, could create tension in the relations between the two countries."

Londono's letter received an immediate and negative response from Philip McLean just before he entered the Foreign Affairs Ministry in response to an urgent call.

The U.S. diplomat told the press that "there are no blacklists or lists of any other color. We do not make lists of people who may or may not receive visas because of their social or political activities."

Nevertheless, McLean refused to say if any Colombian congressman's U.S. visa has been canceled.

McLean limited himself to saying that "we have a law which says that we must reject the request for visas to certain categories of people, but I cannot tell if there are any congressmen, lawyers, or journalists who fit these categories."

Asked about the Colombian inquiry concerning the reasons that led to the cancellation of U.S. visas to the Colombian congressmen, McLean said "We usually do not do that; there is a rule against providing information of that nature."

Londono Paredes is scheduled to appear before the Senate on 27 September to explain the reasons why the U.S. Government made this decision.

The text of the letter to the U.S. Embassy is as follows:

Mr Charge d'Affaires:

Several media have reported that the U.S. Government has decided not to grant, or to cancel visas granted to some members of Congress.

I am asking you to inform me, as soon as possible, if this report is true, and if it is true, the reasons why the U.S. Government made this decision even though the persons involved are congressmen.

My government believes that reports of this type, without a full and proper explanation by the U.S. Government, could create tension in the relations between the two countries.

Without denying the right of every country to decide who enters its territory, it is clear, in this case, that a detailed official explanation is needed to safeguard the prestige and honor of the Colombian Congress.

I take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate my respect.
Julio Londono Paredes
Foreign Affairs Minister

Judge Acquits Gaviria, Gacha of Murder Charges

PA2709151589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0507 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 26 Sep (AFP)—In a first ruling, Criminal Judge 62 of Rionegro municipality, northwestern Antioquia Department, has acquitted drug traffickers Pablo Escobar Gaviria and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha of charges of masterminding the murder of Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos and the kidnapping of Bogota City Mayor Andres Pastrana.

The ruling was issued on the night of 25 September and revealed on 26 September.

Hoyos was kidnapped on 25 January 1988 and was found dead 8 hours later near the Medellin Airport. Pastrana was kidnapped on 22 January 1988 but was rescued by the Army 3 days later.

The "Extraditables" claimed credit at the time for these two actions.

In his first ruling, Judge Francisco Cardenas said "there is not sufficient grounds or evidence" for linking Escobar Gaviria and Rodriguez Gacha, the main chieftains of the Medellin Cartel, to the crimes. The extradition of the drug kingpins has been requested by the U.S. Government.

The prosecutor in the case has appealed Judge Cardenas' ruling before the Superior Tribunal of Medellin, which will soon issue a pronouncement on the validity of the court ruling.

Police Arrest 30 Assassin Gang Members

PA2809041589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0102 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 27 Sep (EFE)—During the past few hours Colombian secret police have arrested 30 criminals who belong to a band of hired assassins operating in the conflict-ridden Middle Magdalena area of the country's central region.

An official report from the Department of Administrative Security (DAS)—the secret intelligence agency that advises Colombian President Virgilio Barco—says that 15 of those arrested are implicated in murders.

In addition, the DAS managed to dismantle four groups of hired assassins known as "the Cockroaches, "the Plateaus," "the Smudged Ones," and "Death to Kidnappers" (MAS).

Meanwhile, the Army has reported that nine privately-owned, light aircraft used in drug trafficking were confiscated during various operations conducted this week. The aircraft have been delivered to the National Drug Council and their owners are under investigation.

The two operations are part of the official offensive against drug trafficking maintained by Barco's government since 18 August.

'State of Emergency' Declared on Economy

PA2709153289 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1209 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—A state of emergency has been declared for the country's economy because of the drop in international coffee prices and the recent wave of terrorism. Finance and Public Credit Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon Mantilla, who is in Washington attending the governors meeting of the World Bank, told Radio Cadena Nacional that the government is aware of the difficulties that have emerged in managing the economic policies because of the suspension of the coffee quota system and the violence. He asked the country's political and business leaders, however, to maintain confidence in the country's economy. The official stated there will be no destabilization in Colombia's monetary and foreign exchange systems because the measures necessary to restore order have been taken.

Ecuador

Oil Pipeline Operations Suspended Due to Strike

PA2709181289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1654 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Quito, 27 Sep (DPA)—A labor strike today paralyzed operations on the Ecuadoran pipeline, which links oil fields in the Amazon jungle to ports on the Pacific Ocean. Consequently, Ecuadoran oil exports will be suspended beginning next weekend.

The strike, announced by labor sources, began after the U.S. company Texaco refused to pay its workers the compensation established by the Ecuadoran Labor Ministry Labor Arbitration Tribunal.

The compensation, a total of $41.6 million, would benefit some 800 Texaco employees. On 30 September Texaco will stop operating the pipeline, which from that date on will be managed by the state-owned Petroecuador [Ecuadoran State Petroleum EnterpriseS] [Empresa Estatal Petroleos de Ecuador].

According to the collective agreement between Texaco and its workers, if the Ecuadoran management refuses to assume all the work commitments established in the contract that is now in effect, the U.S. company has to compensate all its employees. Petroecuador has not agreed to the salary adjustments approved by Texaco.

Ecuador produces 241,00 barrels of oil a day, according to the quota established by OPEC. All its crude oil is pumped through the pipeline.

Texaco sources announced they are "consulting with the appropriate officials," at Texaco headquarters in New York. Texaco has maintained that the compensation should be shared by the Ecuadoran Government. This was rejected by the Labor Tribunal.

Texaco To Pay Compensation

PA2809005289 Paris AFP in Spanish 2255 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Quito, 27 Sep (AFP)—Texaco, the U.S. transnational company that on 1 October will pass management of the Ecuadoran oil pipeline to Petroecuador, a state-owned petroleum enterprise, will pay compensation to approximately 800 workers, according to a Labor Ministry resolution made known here today.

The workers had been working in oil pipeline management operations and for the consortium formed by Petroecuador (the new name of the local state enterprise) and Texaco. This consortium exploits almost 66 percent of Ecuador's national oil production, which will go under Ecuadoran management in July 1990.

The government decided that its enterprise, not Texaco, should manage oil operations in compliance with contract specifications. However, this does not means that nationalization has taken place. (Ecuador owns 100 percent of the pipeline and more than 66 percent of the consortium shares.)

The workers are demanding compensation from Texaco because of the change in management. The Labor Ministry, basing its decision on clauses of the collective contract the U.S. firm signed with its workers, most of whom are Ecuadorans, has backed the demand for payment.

The compensation to be paid to the 800 workers amounts to approximately 25 billion sucres ($44.5 million) because some of the employees have worked for Texaco almost 20 years.

Meanwhile, Petroecuador has refused to list the salaries to be paid to Texaco workers who could be hired by the local enterprise. Texaco, after stating that the compensation should be paid by the consortium as a whole, is consulting with its home office in the United States.

Huilmo Vacacela, a leader of the Texaco workers labor union, has said that the management transference is only a few days away and the workers are concerned about the situation and could adopt measures to exert pressure to secure compensation payment.

State of Emergency Declared

PA2809040489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0319 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Quito, 27 Sep (EFE)—Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja tonight declared a state of emergency throughout the country because oil industry activities are semiparalyzed due to the strike declared by Texaco workers today.

The state of emergency suspends the personal rights of all those who are directly or indirectly involved in the paralyzation of the oil industry activities, whether those persons work for Texaco or not.

The decree stipulates the use of public force to dislodge those who have arbitrarily occupied the oil plant facilities. In addition, public force can be used to protect these facilities and resume normal operations in the plant.

Officials, employees, and workers are ordered to return to work immediately, and instructions have been given to use the necessary equipment to ensure the plant's efficient operation.

With the strike, the Texaco workers are demanding the payment of compensations that the Labor Ministry ordered the corporation to pay those who will no longer be working for Texaco. These compensations amount to $6 million.

Texaco, which employs 780 workers, is scheduled to hand over the operation of the oil pipeline to the new state-owned corporation Petroecuador on 1 October, when Texaco's contract with Ecuador expires.

The U.S.-owned corporation has refused to pay the compensations and said that Petroecuador should pay half of them.

The government has declared the Texaco workers' strike "illegal and immoral."

Workers Urged To End Strike

PA2809053189 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 0403 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Report on news conference by new Ecuadoran Petroleum—Petroecuador—Executive President Luis Roman by unidentified reporters on 27 September; place not given—recorded passages are enclosed within quotation marks]

[Text] Luis Roman was sworn in as executive president of the state's Ecuadoran Petroleum enterprise during a ceremony today. Following the ceremony, he held a news conference during which he referred to the oil pipeline's situation resulting from the strike being carried out by Texaco workers. The official said that as soon as he knew that the workers had declared a strike, he asked the public forces to protect the enterprise installations.

Roman said: "We are continuously appealing to the Texaco workers to discontinue the strike and stop the negative impact of such a measure."

Roman noted that there will not be fuel shortages because there are sufficient fuel reserves. He also said that oil exports have been temporarily suspended.

[Roman] "The activities of Petroecuador are completely normal, and there are enough fuel supplies to cover the national demand. We have more than 1.5 million barrels of oil in the state-owned Esmeralda Oil Refinery storage tanks. This permits us to continue operating the refinery in an absolutely normal fashion. We have fuel for at least 15 days [words indistinct] and crude oil to continue refining for another 15 days.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Roman] "We have ordered a temporary suspension of exports and we are making every effort to reinitiate production activities [words indistinct] as soon as possible."

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Roman] "Operations were suspended this morning at approximately 1000. We hope to be able to renew operations in less than 24 hours."

[Reporter] "Is the situation under control [words indistinct]?"

[Roman] "That is correct. The Armed Forces have provided the security we have requested and the situation has been quiet, normal. There has been no act of violence. The only thing is the workers' decision to suspend work."

Luis Roman said that CEPE [Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, the former name of Petroecuador] never signed a contract with the Texaco workers, and therefore it cannot compensate them.

[Roman] "CEPE never formed part of the labor relationship that existed between Texaco and its workers. Therefore, any Texaco point of view about CEPE having the obligation to pay compensation is checked by the fact that this is a conflict between Texaco and its workers."

2 Drug Traffickers Arrested, Deported to Colombia

PA2509140889 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 15 Sep 89 p 1-A

[Text] The Ecuadoran police dealt a harsh blow to drug trafficking when it captured Juan Hernando Gonzalez and German Belandria, two drug traffickers who worked for the Colombian cartels.

Acting Government Minister Luis Felix Lopez said the two Colombians were arrested in Taisha, in the central eastern region, when their airplane violated Ecuador's air space.

The airplane, a luxury Cessna 210 twin-motor aircraft with a Colombian registration, was forced to land by the Ecuadoran Armed Forces.

According to Ecuador radio, the aircraft made an emergency landing in the area of Buffo in Pastaza Province. The radio added that the airplane, named Centurion, is white and has the registration number H-K-27-29.

Once the drug traffickers were arrested they were brought to Quito and deported to Colombia, where they will be tried.

Acting Minister Lopez said that the event occurred in Taisha at 1000 on 14 September. The aircraft, which was flying over Ecuadoran territory toward an unknown destination, is now in custody of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces at the Taisha airport.

The two traffickers had $336,000 in their possession.

Lopez said that the Ecuadoran Government is willing to stop the infiltration of foreigners, particularly those involved in drug trafficking activities.

The arrest of the drug traffickers was coordinated by the Ministry of Defense and the police.

Gonzalez and Belandria are presumably linked with drug trafficking activities, given the large amount of money they carried and the fact that they were clandestinely flying over Ecuadoran territory.

It is presumed that the aircraft was covering the Cali-Puerto Asis-Leticia (Colombia) route.

Paraguay

President Continues Visit to UN, U.S.

Addresses General Assembly

PY2609233489 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 1414 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Speech by President Andres Rodriguez to the United Nations General Assembly in New York—live]

[Text] Mr President, Mr Secretary General, Delegates: As I begin my address to the 44th UN General Assembly, I must express my pleasure at attending this forum, which has such a deep meaning in the contemporary political world.

I greet you, Mr President, General Jose Garba, representative for the Republic of Nigeria, and express my best wishes that the deliberations that will take place under your expert and competent direction will yield positive results.

I also cordially greet Secretary General Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar, a distinguished Latin American personality, whose brilliant work for the world community has earned our particular admiration and acknowledgment.

From this rostrum, for the Paraguayan people and myself, I express my consideration and respect for all the nations so nobly represented here. We also express our wishes for success to the governors of these countries so that the longed-for peace and prosperity of the world will be strengthened with freedom and justice.

Since this organization was founded in 1945, Paraguay has tried hard to faithfully follow the principles of its Charter, especially those that guarantee the peaceful solution of conflicts, permanent socioeconomic progress to benefit all the countries of the world, legal equality among nations, self-determination of peoples, and nonintervention in domestic affairs of others.

We are satisfied to see that in the past 2 years goals of peace have been achieved, such as the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf, the total withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, and an agreement among Angola, South Africa, and Cuba.

Such encouraging events demonstrate a capacity and a will to struggle for an international community in which reason will prevail over force. We trust all the countries of the world will comply with the principles of Article 1 of the San Francisco Charter by working for international economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation and by respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms for everyone, without distinctions of race, sex, language, or religion.

This is why we are concerned about the violence in several areas of our world, violence caused by racial prejudice and by a stubborn theory of harmful and dangerous discrimination. We really want to bring an end to the wars, guerrilla actions, and merciless persecutions that have become a permanent scourge in some regions of the world.

We do not have much time to make reason prevail and to bring to a happy ending our efforts to eliminate institutionalized hatred from this civilization, in keeping with Article 1 of the Charter to which I have referred.

Within this context we endorse the efforts for the unification of Korea and a solution to the long-standing Namibian problem.

The American Continent that is so dear to us has unfortunately been unable to free itself from fratricidal struggles that destroy everything and turn the histories and lands of sister countries into ruins and desolation. The Republic of El Salvador is always on our minds. No effort, be it large or small, simple or complex, temporary or permanent, to stop further bloodshed in this noble country will be in vain, nor will it be in vain in other countries where nothing but the clamor of guns is now heard.

Even worse than the conventional wars among nations or countrymen are those unleashed by modern terrorist methods.

Today the scourge of terrorism can turn up anywhere to stain the tradition and honor of any nation. Terrorism

has no borders. And although I may forget to mention some other countries, I want to express our solidarity with Spain, Peru, and Colombia. We appreciate the sacrifices that the wise governments of these countries are making to fight the inhuman and abominable practice of terrorism, within the framework of the law and respect for human rights.

We are deeply moved by and express our solidiarty with the grief felt by Colombia. We support President Virgilio Barco's firm position in the current struggle, a difficult moment in the survival of honorable Colombia.

I also want to say that, just as we condemn terrorism by uncontrolled groups, we also firmly condemn state terrorism. The events at Tiananmen Square and the executions ordered by kangaroo courts deserve our frank and definite repudiation.

We wholeheartedly support Colombia and other countries in firmly condemning the infamous trade practiced by the so-called drug traffickers. It is my duty to confirm before this assembly that Paraguay supports and will continue to support as a priority issue all the international initiatives and measures necessary to combat the drug trade.

As soon as it was discovered that there were clandestine marijuana plantations in my country, my administration, with the cooperation of the United States, sprayed these fields within the framework of a campaign to eradicate any form of drug trafficking. My administration will not allow Paraguayan soil to be used as a transit point for drug trafficking and traffickers. Within our economic limitations, my administration will go to any length to prevent and eradicate this trade.

I would like to take this opportunity to request the broad and positive cooperation of the members of this organization to achieve our objectives. I also want to state that we are following with optimism and approval the firm attitude of President Bush, who has taken this problem to the international level.

Before discussing other international issues I want to talk about my fatherland: Paraguay.

Some of the essential goals of the very well known public event that changed the political situation in my country after 3 February 1989 are based on the UN Charter. The destiny of the country depends on its implementation.

We all know that the history of a people does not depend on political science alone, because there are situations imposed on us that affect our development. In Paraguay we were fully aware of the need for a substantial change in our internal policy.

In the last decades we benefited from transitory economic projects, particularly the construction of important public works, that promoted a change in the country's infrastructure. However, the long imposition of a personal power structure and its economic consequences hurt our political institutions and seriously damaged the image of the country.

We had to implement a careful strategy to expel the dictatorship that had enthroned itself.

On 2 and 3 February 1989, an Armed Forces movement under my command ousted the repressive and totalitarian regime and dissolved the Congress that was part of this power structure. Immediately after, and without implementing any measure of exception established in the laws, we proceeded to create a democratic process with the unanimous support of all national political sectors and the Armed Forces.

The first and most important result was the return without restrictions of all our fellow countrymen who wanted to return to the country and who could not do so previously for political reasons.

All restrictions on the media were lifted. All newspapers and radio stations that had been closed reopened and recovered the constitutional right to inform the public.

After the 3 February event, and in accordance with the Constitution in effect, we called a general presidential and congressional election. The electoral law was partially amended to allow all political parties to participate in the democratic event. Twelve political parties answered the call made by my government. Some of those parties were new ones. Eight parties fielded presidential candidates and congressional tickets.

The election was held on 1 May 1989 after an intense campaign, in which all candidates were guaranteed total freedom to carry out their political campaigns. This event signaled the beginning of a new democratic era in which all Paraguayans were allowed to participate and help construct a modern country.

The executive and legislative branches began their constitutional terms by abolishing all laws that repressed or restricted the political freedoms of our citizens.

The first law that my government promulgated was the one ratifying the San Jose, Costa Rica, pact on human rights. Paraguay had been a cosigner of the pact for 20 years but had not ratified it.

In order to fulfill our international commitments and to restore the country's image, I have just sent to Congress a bill ratifying the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading acts. I am talking about the inter-American convention to prevent and punish torture that was signed in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 9 December 1985. I have also sent to Congress the convention on political rights of women.

The national government will soon implement other projects to consolidate democracy, including the direct election of municipal authorities and the convention of a National Constituent Assembly to amend the Constitution and make it possible for the Paraguayan people,

after calm and reasonable debate, to approve a new Constitution guaranteeing the republican and democratic system and definitively eradicating all totalitarian temptations.

One of our priorities is effective and genuine integration, first with our neighboring countries in the so-called River Plate Basin, and then with the rest of the South American region.

With that purpose I have had the honor of holding several meetings with my distinguished colleagues, the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, and Uruguay. I also hope to establish brotherly contacts with other distinguished American presidents to make known the true political transformation of Paraguay—which is openly and decidedly progressing toward democracy. From the policy of complementariness being implemented by the River Plate Basin member countries and by those countries that endorse Latin American integration, we find encouraging results, despite the fact that much remains to be done. We are making progress in terms of reciprocal trade; we are trying to complement our industries; we are coming to understand our interests better; and we are especially promoting communication among our territories.

The Itaipu Binational Hydroelectric Dam, which is already working and which we built together with Brazil, and that of Yacyreta, which we are currently building with Argentina, are evidence of our spirit of integration. What is more, during the past week the presidents of the River Plate Basin countries have decided to implement an international riverway on the Paraguay, Parana, and Plate Rivers to facilitate access for our region to the Atlantic Ocean.

This important project is currently being analyzed by experts, and it has obtained financial support from the Inter-American Development Bank. This riverway will certainly be exceptionally useful for the countries that will benefit from it. Bolivia and Paraguay, particularly, will benefit from access to the sea through this project.

Despite this riverway project, I cannot avoid mentioning the landlocked situation of Paraguay and Bolivia. We are the only two countries on the American Continent with this disadvantage. This handicap must be well understood, not only by the Latin American community, but by the whole world.

Within this context, I want to remind you that the so-called law of the sea is an achievement of the peoples who benefit from it through their maritime coasts. International solidarity, however, will become genuine only when the so-called landlocked countries—of which there are no more than 20—fully share the right to the sea, which has fairly been declared a heritage for mankind.

The economies of landlocked countries, despite the international agreements on transportation, need resources from the sea. The riches of the oceans must not be the exclusive property of the countries with seacoasts, but of the continent as a whole.

My country suffers from a landlocked situation and thinks that perhaps we should embark on a concerted action with other landlocked countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Our countries need not only transportation facilities to reach the sea, but also a share of the resources that providence placed in the oceans.

I would like to talk about the foreign debt of our countries now. The burden of the debt continues to threaten the economic recovery of vast regions, the populations of which struggle on the threshold of survival.

The economy of developing countries, despite the considerable efforts to implement needed internal adjustments, and despite the inherent high social cost of the adjustments, have seen their income levels drop dramatically. At the same time their people's level of misery and hopelessness has steadily increased because of the indifference of the international financial community.

It seems to be appropriate here to stress the threat that this burden represents for our new democracies if we cannot resolve the social and economic problems of the great majority of our people. We need the solidarity and cooperation of the more developed countries if we are going to succeed. Any political regression could have dramatic consequences if those who have the responsibility to work for a more just international economic order continue to show a lack of understanding or interest in solving the problem.

Latin America is ending a lost decade, in which investment in their countries has decreased dramatically. This decrease further weakens the economic strength of the region and places the additional burden of financing stability and growth on their small internal savings.

After years of experimenting with internal adjustments, we can say that those sacrifices alone will not solve the problem.

Paraguay, though its situation is not as bad as some, has problems of that sort, as well. We have recently renegotiated an important part of our foreign debt with Brazil, which is also a debtor country. The renegotiation of our debt with Brazil is an example, because it shows that we can always find a solution if there is political will and cooperation.

There are promising signs for dialogue to find a solution to the foreign debt problem. We call on the international community and on the governments of industrialized countries to make a joint effort to strengthen the productive and financial structure of the developing economies.

This common effort will benefit not only the debtors but also the creditors, which should be eager to have prosperity and not misery in the world. No one will gain legitimate prosperity from the misery of all.

We are basically a livestock and agricultural country, and the vitality of our economy is still awaiting the support and drive of capital, to which we offer the fertility of our soil, the benefits of our climate, and the effort of the Paraguayan people.

The country has its doors open to the productive investment of foreign enterprises, which will have the support of the government. The government has set clear rules for a social market economy, and it protects private property to insure investors legitimate benefits. We give a most serious guarantee for investments, in an environment of absolute honesty and correct administration.

I am making this call from this important podium before highly qualified witnesses, and I trust in the natural goodness of the Paraguayan people who are anxious to have a better standard of living.

We can be firm and practical in starting a joint action of debtors, creditors, multilateral financial organizations, and rich countries to seek solutions based on terms and conditions that can be socially acceptable and politically possible, in order not to jeopardize the promising democratic process developing in several countries.

In my country, production is based on livestock and agricultural industry. It is running the risk of being seriously affected by environmental conditions. I would, therefore, like to convey my government's concern for the preservation of the environment and of the Paraguayan soil, which is so rich.

We call for international cooperation to provide the necessary means and experience to preserve the fertile valleys, the large forests, and the large rivers of Paraguay. We want a good environment for a clean and healthy life for the many people who will come to enjoy the beautiful land of the Americas in the future. The time is right for Paraguay to ensure harmony among industrial progress, a clear sky, and a generous land.

Paraguay is on the way to democracy and will not retreat. It is also getting ready to reduce the social and cultural backwardness affecting the majority of its younger population. In my country 69 percent of the population is under 30 years of age. A large percentage of it is illiterate. It lacks higher education and is affected by poor health conditions and growing unemployment.

We see with hope the interest taken by UNESCO and the WHO to cooperate with us in overcoming our social problems. We are expecting more aid in the next few years in order to overcome, before the beginning of the next century, the serious situation that was left by the political regime that was ousted on 3 February 1989.

My government would also like to express its concern over the permanent reduction of the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] resources for the Latin American region. In the face of the upcoming consultation for the financing and distribution of the aid established for the fifth cycle of the 1992-96 UNDP, we would like to state our position that the participation of our region in the program should be maintained at least at the current level in order to prevent a greater reduction of the technical assistance needed for development, especially in the countries that are economically weaker.

I would also like to express my government's satisfaction with the UNDP flexibility and quickness in finding solutions to the priority requirements of my government, such as agrarian reform and the creation of jobs in small businesses.

We have faith that with international cooperation we are going to move ahead in social and economic democracy, as a complement to the promising political transformation taking place in Paraguay, where the government and people have decided to consolidate the widest and most effective guarantee of freedom.

This organization, which has the basic purpose of creating the conditions for permanent peace, logically has in its agenda every year the issue of disarmament. Although this issue especially concerns the great powers, it is also true that other countries, no matter how modest their resources, should reduce their armaments to what is absolutely necessary.

We base our judgment on what we know, but the factor that will finally decide how many weapons to maintain will be either conviction or terror.

The terror of nuclear holocaust has driven the superpowers to take the path of reason. Those of us who have no power to destroy the planet should be driven by the conviction of real brotherhood among men.

Recently, on the 50th anniversary of the beginning of World War II, Pope John Paul II wisely summarized the problem of disarmament by saying: War is in itself irrational and the principle of the peaceful solution of conflicts is the only dignified path for men.

Risk cannot be separated from human life, but it can be intelligently and prudently controlled. I believe that this is the great challenge of the United Nations, to which we will continue to give our strong support by seeking an indestructible solidarity among men.

Mr President, Mr Secretary General, delegates, I will return to my country with the recollection of this memorable moment, when I had the high honor to come before this assembly to convey very briefly the thoughts of my government on some of the current problems and to set before this assembly the hope of the Paraguayan people, who wish to see every day, in the light of the tropical sun, the promise of a more fraternal and happy world.

Let us not waste these hours, when we are on the road to peace, justice, freedom, and brotherhood among men. Thank you very much. [applause]

Argana on UN Speech

PY2709191289 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p 10

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana spoke to reporters here shortly after President Rodriguez ended his speech at the United Nations. The minister said: "This was a formal presentation of our views but it does not mean we have changed our foreign policy. However, Paraguay has been giving a different tone and a more encompassing spirit to our foreign policy since the new government was recognized by the other American countries."

Argana said: "Our international presence is different. The line of our revolutionary policies—if you want to call them that—is to give priority to balancing relations with our neighboring countries because for a long time we chose to favor one of them over the others. In a way we were a satellite to their foreign policy. Today we are restoring the historic balance that will allow us to recover our identity as a free and sovereign nation and facilitate our relations with all countries without distinctions or privileges."

Rodriguez, Perez Meet

PY2609194989 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 26 Sep 89 p 13

[By special correspondent]

[Text] New York—At 1000 yesterday the presidents of Paraguay and Venezuela held a cordial meeting that was characterized by an integrationist spirit. They later expressed their satisfaction over their meeting and over the possibility of establishing personal contact.

During their meeting, Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez expressed their hope for a better future for their two countries.

President Rodriguez said that his meeting with President Perez impressed him very much because this is the first opportunity he has had to meet with a leader of a Latin American democracy.

After the meeting Rodriguez said: "I have wanted to meet him for a long time, and now I have had that chance. President Perez has encouraged us to strengthen the current Paraguayan democratic process."

For his part, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said he is "very pleased to have met President Rodriguez. There is great satisfaction in all of Latin America, and in Venezuela in particular, regarding what the Paraguayan president has done in favor of democracy in Paraguay. I am very pleased and quite optimistic about the democratic process in Paraguay. The fact that he has come to this assembly with Paraguayan opposition leaders is an example of this democratic process."

Americas Society Speech

PY2709021489 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0005 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Speech by President Andres Rodriguez to the Society of the Americas in New York—live in Spanish with passage-by-passage English translation]

[Text] Mr President of the Society of the Americas, Ambassador George Landau, ladies and gentlemen:

I am very pleased to address this forum, where are gathered the most distinguished representatives of the private sector of this great nation. This country represents the driving force of a just cause: the defense of the free enterprise of the whole world. Free enterprise is the moving force and the source of economic development and social equality. [applause]

My government shares the concepts sustained by the Council of the Americas. We have put in place a framework of political freedoms that provides for the full enjoyment of a representative democracy. This democracy is built upon the operation of political parties, equal opportunities for everyone, respect for human rights, and the preservation of the right of ownership. It is a democracy in which the people have legitimate control over the destiny of the nation.

My government looks on those political freedoms as the principle foundation of economic liberty. The fundamental values and principles of economic freedom have been chosen as the basis for free trade, a free exchange market, and the free play of supply and demand as the true mechanism for setting prices.

The principles of economic freedom also guide our investment policy and the most rational use of the country's resources. With this method, we hope to allow the economy to grow in an atmosphere of productive efficiency and to find its place in the international arena, based on a system of comparative advantages.

Immediately upon assuming responsibility for the government, we undertook to change the unjust rules that curtailed economic freedoms. On 2 March, we put into effect a free exchange market outside the control of the Central Bank of Paraguay, and we eliminated the former system of muliple exchange rates and minimum export prices. The new system now applies to all international transactions dealing with goods, services, and capital flow. We have set aside all price controls and eliminated differencial interest rates. We have cancelled minimum and ceiling prices on basic consumer goods and set them free to find their level on the market.

We have also begun to cancel monopolies that favored some government enterprises or entities supported by privileges and subsidies, such as the joint commission for the sale and distribution of sugar and the monopoly on alcohol and rum. We also eliminated the system of control over the marketing of fuel alcohol.

We have also moved toward privatizing two or three large industries, and at the same time we put into effect a strict program of budget and administrative streamlining in all government enterprises, to allow them to become financially self-supporting and to cut out all subsidies.

We have enacted a general and flexible law providing for incentives for investments, so that they may become the principle axis for the country's economic development. The law provides for total tax exemption on investments. We have reinforced the principle of equal opportunity for national and foreign investors. Our country does not discriminate on investments based on their origin. All investments are welcomed to share the bountiful natural and human resources found in Paraguay.

Mr Secretary, may I point out to the economic policy leaders of the United States, who are at this forum, that Paraguay offers a framework of political democracy and supports simple, clear, and promotional policies on economic subjects that will allow for new developments in agriculture, cattle raising, forestry, manufacturing, trade, and services.

The country offers excellent prospects and abundant resources. We can count on vast productive and fertile lands that await the hand of man and the technology to reach a high level of diversified farming and cattle breeding.

We have ample forest reserves for the manufacture of lumber, paper, and cellulose. We perform the initial stages of the processing of domestic raw materials, especially those provided by agriculture, such as cotton, soybeans, corn, sugar cane, and other products. We wholeheartedly support increased processing in order to increase the added value of our products.

Paraguay offers huge hydroelectric power reserves at Itaipu and Yacyreta. Paraguay is the world's largest per capita producer of this type of energy. Utilization of those power resources by traditional industry or by high-power consuming industry offers the widest option for foreign investment.

Messrs businessmen, my government has adopted a healthy policy of placing in the hands of private enterprises the leading role in the promotion of economic development. We believe that a business community working in political and economic freedom can become the vital factor that will bring about the important objectives that we have set for the benefit of all Paraguayans.

I warmly thank all the businessmen in this forum for the time they have spent listening to me. [aplause]

Venezuela

President Perez' Activities in New York Reported

PA2809044989

[Editorial Report] Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 28 September carries an 8-minute report on President Carlos Andres Perez activities in New York today.

The report says that President Perez, who was present at the signing of a cooperation agreement on tourism, stressed the importance of the agreement to strengthen U.S. relations with Venezuela and Latin America.

The report mentions a private meeting between President Perez and Brazilian President Jose Sarney, during which they discussed matters related to foreign debt renegotiation by Latin American countries. According to Sarney, the Brady Plan is not producing the expected results, due to a "lack of political willingness from creditor countries."

The report adds that Perez also met with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the Venezuelan mission's headquarters in the United Nations, "who agreed on the need for a political solution to the foreign debt problem." The report states that Kissinger also recognized the need for a substantial reduction of the debt.

The reporter then gives details of Perez' meeting with a group of young Venezuelan professionals residing in New York and Boston.

Also on Perez' agenda today was a meeting with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto. The report notes that several presidents will meet in San Jose, Costa Rica next month to attend the celebration of 100 years of democracy in that country. The report then continues with a recording of President Perez' statement at a news conference he granted at the United Nations, during which he stressed that "Venezuela has not changed its strategy for negotiating its foreign debt." He insisted that "Venezuela requires a 50 percent reduction in its foreign debt service."

The report ends by noting that "President Perez is meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and discussing the Central American situation."

Antidrug Cooperation Agreement With U.S.

PA2809014089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2214 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Caracas, 27 Sep (EFE)—Venezuelan Defense Ministry sources reported today that Venezuela and the United States have signed a cooperation agreement to fight drug trafficking.

According to the agreement, the United States will provide $400,000 to contribute to the struggle against the production, processing, and illegal trafficking of drugs in Venezuela.

Venezuelan Defense Minister General Filmo Lopez and Kenneth N. Skoug, the U.S. charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Caracas, signed the agreement.

Venezuela, with U.S. cooperation, is to improve the preparation and efficiency of the institutions currently participating in the struggle against drug trafficking, the sources said.

300 Arrested in Antidrug Operation With Colombia

PA2709172089 Paris AFP in Spanish
0502 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Maracaibo, Venezuela, 26 Sep (AFP)—The local news agency INNAC [INFORMACIONES NACIONALES PRESS SERVICE] reported today that the Colombian and Venezuelan Armies have conducted a joint antidrug-trafficking operation and have arrested 300 persons in the border area.

The operation was conducted as part of an agreement signed by the two armies in Santa Marta, Colombia, last week. The agreement also included security plans and operations against drug traffickers and guerrillas in the border area.

This first operation was conducted by Colombian and Venezuelan soldiers in the southern part of Lake Maracaibo, approximately 600 km southeast of Caracas.

Those arrested have been transferred to Casigua El Cuba in Colombia's Colon District, where Colombian officials will initiate preliminary investigations.

Venezuelan military spokesmen highlighted the importance of the agreement signed with the Colombian Armed Forces today in Maracaibo, Venezuela. They said the agreement was important "because it had enabled both armies to coordinate joint actions that protect the border areas from drug traffickers and guerrillas and this had never been done before."